CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Incidents of suicide by farmers in various parts of the country and remedial measures taken by Government with regard thereto

SHRI S S AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture on the incidents of suicide by farmers in various parts of the country, and remedial measures taken by the Government with regard thereto

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) Sir, the cases of suicide by farmers have been reported from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tripura The number of cases of suicide has been significant in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka Orissa and Maharashtra in the recent period as reported However, the Government of Orissa has clarified that the cases of suicide by farmers in this State were not due to causes related to agriculture The main causes as reported by the State Governments for committing suicide by farmers are crop failure, indebtedness, high rate of interest on loans, drought, social and economic insecurity, incurable ailments, addiction to alcohol and family disputes

In order to tackle the problems of the farmers, the Common Minimum programme of the Government of UPA has identified areas requiring focussed and priority attention Some of the important action points are, doubling rural credit in three years, easing the burden of debt, high interest rate and nursing cooperative banks to health, dry land farming, development of horticulture, improvement of water management and protection to farmers from imports and falling international prices

In order to achieve these objectives, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has announced a number of initiatives to provide relief to the farmers Notable among them are, accelerating the completion of irrigation projects, investing in rural infrastructure, providing farm insurance and livestock insurance, improving agriculture product markets and promoting agri-businesses and appointment of a Task Force on reforms in the cooperative banking system

It is proposed to undertake restructuring of debt of the farmers by the commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks and cooperatives Debts of farmers in distress will be rescheduled/restructured in districts declared as calamity affected by the State Government with longer repayment period at current interest rates including an initial moratorium of two years Farmers in arrears will receive the benefit of rescheduling of loans in

default to enable them to become eligible for fresh credit The system of one-time settlement for defaulting small and marginal farmers will be put into operation

The Central Government has taken up various schemes and programmes for enhancing production of agriculture and horticulture crops like Macro-Management Scheme, Technology Mission on Horticulture in the North-East including Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Jammu and Kashmir, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize, Technology Mission on Cotton, Technology Mission on Coconut and On Farm Water Management in Eastern India The farmers are receiving financial assistance under different schemes The Government has also provided safety nets in the form of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Farmers Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS) against production loss and Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) against decline in prices

The drought relief assistance is given to the States both in the form of financial assistance and foodgrains as and when necessary.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) in the Chair]

Since August, 2003, Andhra Pradesh has received Rs 140.86 crores and 7 2 lakh MTs of foodgrains, Karnataka Rs 332.15 crores and 7 29 lakh MTs of foodgrains and Kerala Rs 30 65 crores and 0.61 lakh MTs of foodgrains.

State Governments also provide relief to the affected families Government of Andhra Pradesh have decided to provided financial assistance, *i.e.*, an *ex gratia* of Rs 1 lakh to the family/next of kin of the deceased farmers as economic support besides loan settlement up to a ceiling of Rs. 50,000 as one-time settlement to creditors, each family is given a house under Indira Awas Yojana, admission to wards in Social Welfare Residential Schools Hostels. In Karnataka, compensation of Rs. 110 22 lakhs to affected families of the farmers has been given The interest on short-term loan has been waived and a rebate of 5.5 per cent is allowed on medium-term loan Further, fertilizers and seeds are supplied at subsidised rates. In Maharashtra, the heirs of the deceased were given assistance of Rs 1 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The Government is fully conscious of the hardships of the farmers and will spare no efforts to solve their problems Thank You

श्री राजनाथ सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पहले तो मैं आपके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूं कि इतने अति महत्वपूर्ण और अति संवेदनशील विषय पर इस सदन

में विचार करने की आपने अनुमति प्रदान की है। किसानों की आत्महत्या का जहां तक प्रश्न है, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में इसका उल्लेख किया है और उन राज्यों का भी नाम लिया है, जहां पर उनकी सरकारी रिपोर्ट के आधार पर आत्महत्याएं हुई हैं – आंध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, उड़ीसा और महाराष्ट्र। वैसे समाचार पत्रों में जो समाचार प्रकाशित होते हैं, उनके अनुसार ये आत्महत्याएं केवल इन्हीं राज्यों तक सीमित नहीं हैं, बल्कि आंध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, उड़ीसा और महाराष्ट्र के अतिरिक्त पंजाब भी है और त्रिपुरा से भी किसानों की आत्महत्याओं के संबंध में जानकारी मिली है। महोदय, ये आत्महत्याएं क्यों होती हैं, इसके भी कई कारणों का उल्लेख माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में किया है इसलिए बहुत विस्तार में जाकर मैं उसकी चर्चा नहीं करूंगा। मंत्री जी ने तीन वर्षों में ग्रामीण ब्याज दर का ऊंचा होना, फसल की विफलता, ऋण ग्रस्तता, सूखा, सामाजिक और आर्थिक सुरक्षा, असाध्य रोग, मध्यपान और पारिवारिक कलह की बात की है। ऐसे कई कारणों का आपने उल्लेख किया है। महोदय, ज्यों ही सरकार का गठन हुआ, इस सरकार ने गांव, गरीब और किसानों की जोर-शोर से चर्चा की और हिन्दुस्तान का आम किसान यह समझने लगा कि नयी सरकार आयी है, निश्चित रूप से कोई ऐसा तोहफा हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों को मिलेगा जिससे किसान का भी विकास होगा और गांव का भी विकास होगा लेकिन जब बजट पेश हुआ तो सचमुच इस हिन्दुस्तान के आम किसान को, आम गरीब को जितनी बड़ी निराशा हुई है, हताशा हुई है, मैं उसकी चर्चा नहीं कर सकता हूं। जहां तक कृषि का सवाल है, इस सच्चाई को हिन्दुस्तान का हर व्यक्ति जानता है कि यह कृषि केवल एक व्यवसाय नहीं है बल्कि भारतीय समाज की एक जीवन पद्धति है, बल्कि मैं तो यहां तक कहता हूं कि यह एक धर्म है और केवल इस देश की आर्थिक संरचना ही नहीं बल्कि इस देश की सांस्कृतिक और सामाजिक संरचना का भी आधार हमारी कृषि ही है। निश्चित रूप से जब कृषि का उत्पादन गिरता है, जब किसानों को इसका खामियाजा भुगतना पड़ता है तब इस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था पर ही चोट नहीं लगती है बल्कि इस देश की सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक संरचना पर भी चोट पहुंचती है। इतने गंभीर विषय पर इस बजट में जो कुछ भी कहा गया है, उसे देखकर ऐसा लगता है इस देश के किसानों के साथ कोई क्रूर मजाक किया गया हो। ...(व्यवधान)... वाह, वाह करने की जरूरत नहीं है। इस सच्चाई को भी समझ लीजिए कि जो ईश्वर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिम बंगाल): सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): सरला जी बैठिए। राजनाथ जी, आप चेयर को ऐड्रेस करके बोलते जाइए।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: चेयर को ही कर रहा हूं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): उनके शासनकाल में जब आत्महत्याएं हुईं तब किसानों की याद नहीं आयी। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: महोदय, मैं यह कह रहा था कि जो लोग इस पर विश्वास ...(व्यवधान)...

उप सभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): आप बैठ जाइए। राजनाथ जी, आप अपना बोलना कॉन्टीन्यू करिए। ...(व्यवधान)... राजनाथ जी, आप प्लीज़ कॉन्टीन्यू करिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: सर, थोड़ी शांति हो जाए। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please, let him speak. He is on his legs He is not yielding Please let him speak. We have to cover the entire business and we are dispensing with the lunch hour with the consensus of the House Please let him speak. Let him have his say राजनाथ जी, आप अब जल्दी कर लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... राजनाथ जी, आप कॉन्टीयू करिए। Nothing is going on record except Shri Raj Nathji.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: महोदय, मैं यह कह रहा था कि लोग भगवान को विधाता मानते हैं - इस पर किसी को कोई आपत्ति नहीं हो सकती कि कोई भगवान को विधाता माने लेकिन सचमुच भारत में अन्नदाता यदि कोई है तो इस देश का किसान हैं। यदि किसान की कोई उपेक्षा होगी तो निश्चित रूप से अर्थव्यवस्था के जिस लक्ष्य को हम हासिल करना चाहते हैं, उस लक्ष्य को हासिल कर पाना हम सबके लिए बहुत ही कठिन कार्य होगा। इस सच्चाई से हम सभी अवगत हैं कि हमारे देश की 70 फीसदी जनसंख्या कृषि पर आधारित है, कृषि से संबंधित कार्यों पर आधारित है।

जहां तक एग्रीकल्चर का टोटल जी॰डी॰पी॰ में कंट्रीब्यूशन का सवाल है, वह 24 से 25 परसेंट है। जहां तक रोज़गार का सवाल है, एम्लॉयमेंट का सवाल है, इस देश में जितने लोगों को एम्लॉयमेंट मिला हुआ है, उसका 56.7 परसेंट एम्प्लायमेंट केवल कृषि क्षेत्र से मिला हुआ है। लेकिन जहां तक इन्वेस्टमेंट का सवाल है, निवेश का सवाल है, टोटल जी॰डी॰पी॰ का केवल 1.3 परसेंट इन्वेस्टमेंट कृषि में होता है। रोजगार की दृष्टि से यदि हम देखें तो 56.7 परसेंट लोगों को कृषि क्षेत्र में रोज़गार प्राप्त होता है, इसलिए मैं समझता हूं कि यह इन्वेस्टमेंट केवल 1.3 परसेंट नहीं होना चाहिए बल्कि उससे बढ़कर होना चाहिए और कम से कम 15 परसेंट होना चाहिए। जनसंख्या की दृष्टि से देखें तो यह इन्वेस्टमेंट टोटल जी॰डी॰पी॰ का 18 परसेंट से अधिक होना चाहिए, लेकिन आज जो भी इन्वेस्टमेंट हो रहा है, वह न के बराबर है।

श्रीमन्, ज्यों ही इस सरकार का गठन हुआ, इस सरकार ने एक नई एग्रीकल्चर क्रेडिट पॉलिसी की घोषणा की। वित्त मंत्री जी ने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में इस एग्रीकल्चर क्रेडिट पॉलिसी की घोषणा की थी उन्होंने यह कहा कि हम चाहते हैं किसानों को अधिक से अधिक कर्ज़ मिल सके,

समय पर मिल सके और उचित दर पर, सरलता के साथ वह कर्ज़ मिल सके, लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि वित्त मंत्री जी से यह सच्चाई छिपी नहीं है कि किसानों को जिस सहजता, जिस सरलता के साथ कर्ज़ हासिल होना चाहिए, वह उन्हें हासिल नहीं हो पाता है। टार्गेट निर्धारित किया गया है कि पूरा कर्ज़ जो दिया जाता है, टोटल क्रेडिट फ्लो का 18 परसेंट एग्रीकल्चर सेक्टर को जाना चाहिए, लेकिन यदि हम देखें तो वह 18 परसेंट नहीं, 15 परसेंट जा रहा है और उस 15 परसेंट में भी 2.5 परसेंट आर.आई.डी.एफ. को, रूरल इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट फंड को जा रहा है। यानी सब मिला-जुलाकर देखें तो टारगेट हमारा 18 परसेंट का है, लेकिन केवल 12 फीसदी ऋण ही हम किसानों को मुहैया करा पा रहे हैं जिसके कारण इस प्रकार का संकट पैदा हो रहा है।

महोदय, सी॰डी॰ रेशियो की भी मैं यहां पर चर्चा करना चाहूंगा। सी॰डी॰ रेशियो की मैं इसलिए चर्चा करना चाहूंगा कि हमारा किसान यदि अपनी बचत का सौ रुपया बैंकों में जमा करता है तो वह केवल तीस रुपया कर्ज़ के रूप में हासिल कर पाता है। यानी सी॰डी॰ रेशियो केवल 30 है और शेष जो कुछ भी उसकी बचत होती है, अन्य क्षेत्रों में उसका उपयोग होता है। अब इन हालात को कैसे सुधारा जाए, यह एक अहम सवाल है।

महोदय, पहले हमको विचार करना होगा कि इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चरल फैसिलिटीज़ हम कैसे किसानों को मुहैया कराएं? सबसे अहम सवाल इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के मामले में इरिगेशन का है, सिंचाई का है। हम जानते हैं कि आज हमारे देश में केवल 40 परसेंट एग्रीकल्चर लैंड, कृषि योग्य भूमि सिंचित है। 60 परसेंट कृषि योग्य भूमि पर काम करने वाले किसान को वर्षा के पानी के ऊपर आश्रित रहना पड़ता है, उसे भगवान भरोसे रहना पड़ता है। लेकिन इस बार वित्त मंत्री जी ने बड़े जोर-शोर से दावा किया है कि इरिगेशन फैसिलिटीज़ को बढ़ाने के लिए हमने बहुत बड़ा प्रोविज़न कर दिया है मैं इसका उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा। श्रीमन् और यह जो "बजट ऐट ए ग्लांस" है, इसमें देखा भी जा सकता है कि एक्सलरेटेड इरिगेशन बेनिफिट प्रोग्राम में पहले 2250 करोड़ रुपए का प्रोविज़न था, उसको बढ़ाकर 2800 करोड़ कर दिया गया है, यानी केवल 550 करोड़ रुपए की वृद्धि की गई है। साथ ही मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि यह जो बजट ऐलोकेशन है, यह कोई सहायता के रूप में राज्य सरकारों को प्राप्त नहीं होता है बल्कि यह ऋण के रूप में ही प्राप्त होता है, इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि इरिगेशन के नाम पर इस सरकार ने कुछ भी नहीं किया है जबकि इस सच्चाई को सरकार के लोग भी जानते होंगे कि जो सिंचित भूमि होती है और असिंचित भूमि होती है, उसमें उत्पादन का अनुपात 1:3 का होता है। यदि असिंचित क्षेत्र में एक क्विंटल अनाज पैदा होगा तो सिंचित क्षेत्र में लगभग तीन क्विंटल का अनाज पैदा होगा। वैसे देखा जाए तो जो भी हमारी असिंचित भूमि है, उसको सिंचित बनाने के लिए मैं समझता हूं कि लगभग एक लाख करोड़ की धनराशि चाहिए।

45 वर्षों तक जिस एक राजनीतिक दल ने इस हिन्दुस्तान पर हुकूमत की है, सचमुच प्राथमिकता के आधार इसकी व्यवस्था तो पहले ही की जानी थी। यह 45 वर्ष का समय कोई

छोटा समय नहीं है। लेकिन 45 वर्षों में कुछ नहीं किया गया। आज भी किसानों की आंख में धूल झोंकने की कोशिश की जा रही है। श्रीमन् मैं तो यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस बजट की सैंक्टिटी पर भी मुझे संदेह है। आप यह पूछेंगे, यह जानना चाहेंगे ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI RAJU PARMAR (Gujarat). Sir, what are we discussing here? Sir...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please, sit down. Nothing will go on record except what Shri Raj Nath Singh speaks. Mr. Rajnath Singh, please conclude now *.(Interruptions)*. Please, please conclude Rajnath Singh ji. *...(Interruptions)*.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: मैं जानता हूं कि ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please conclude Raj Nath Singh Ji. *...(Interruptions)*.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: श्रीमन् मैं जानता हूं कि हमारी सच बात के कारण ट्रेजरी बैंच पर बैठे लोगों को पीड़ा हुई होगी। लेकिन मैं यहां पर एक उल्लेख करना चाहता हूं कि ...(व्यवधान)... इसलिए मैंने कहा है कि मैंने इसकी सैंक्टिटी की बात क्यों कही है? ...(व्यवधान)... श्रीमन् मेरी बात को सुनें, मैंने सैंक्टिटी की बात क्यों कही है ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): राजनाथ सिंह जी आप एक मिनट में कनक्लूड कर दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस॰एस॰ अहलुवालिया: एक मिनट में कैसे, यह तो इतना सीरियस मसला है ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): अहलुवालिया साहब, बस आप ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस॰एस॰ अहलुवालिया: सैकड़ों फार्मर्ज आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं और इसलिए यह मसला चर्चा के लिए ..(व्यवधान)..

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): प्लीज।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: श्रीमन्, मैंने सैंक्टिटी की बात कही है, उस पर आपत्ति है इसलिए मैं इसका उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा। अपने बजट की स्पीच में ...(व्यवधान)... कैसी आशंकाएं पैदा हो रही हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): राजनाथ सिंह जी, अब आप क्वेश्चन कर लीजिए और मेहरबानी करके कन्क्लूड कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज आप बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान).

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal). He is an experienced Member. He has been a Minister He is making . (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please, sit down. He is a senior Member. He knows it very well.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JIBON ROY. No issue, no issue ...(*Interruptions*). He does not have any issue except Budget (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Nothing else will go on record

SHRI S S AHLUWALIA: Are you anti-farmer ...(*Interruptions*)? Are you anti-farmer? ..(*Interruptions*)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): अहलुवालिया जी, प्लीज। ....(**व्यवधान**).... आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज बैठ जाइए। आप बोलिए।

SHRI A VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, same concession should be given to every Member ..(*Interruptions*)...

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: श्रीमन्, मैंने बजट सेंक्टिटी की बात इसलिए कही है कि 2004-2005 के लिए जो रेवेन्यु डेफिसिट दिखाई गई है वह 76,171 करोड़ है। यह डेफिसिट टोटल जी॰डी॰पी॰ का 2.5 परसेंट है। इसका मतलब यह है कि टोटल जी॰डी॰पी॰ 30,46,840 करोड़ है, लेकिन फिस्कल डेफिसिट 1,37,407 करोड़ दिखाई गई है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): आप बैठ जाइए। राजनाथ सिंह जी, अब आप कन्क्लूड कीजिए क्योंकि आपके दस मिनट हो गए हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया: यह रनिंग कमेन्ट्री चलती रहेगी तो क्या होगा? ...(**व्यवधान**)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI). Hon. Members, if you interrupt, then, he can't finish it and we have to dispense with lunch hour also.

राजनाथ सिंह जी, प्लीज कन्क्लूड कीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: श्रीमन्, मैं यह कह रहा था कि फिस्कल डेफिसिट के आधार पर यदि हम देखें तो टोटल जी॰ डी॰ पी॰ 31,22,886 करोड़ बनती है। वह 70 हजार करोड़ रुपया कहां चला गया? मैं यह चाहूंगा कि जब मंत्री जी उत्तर देने लगें तो इसका भी जवाब दें। इसीलिए मैंने कहा कि बजट की सेंक्टिटी पर मुझे संदेह है। इरीगेशन के लिए, सिंचाई के लिए जो बजट एलोकेशन है, आपने कहा कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को यह एसिस्टेंस दिया जाएगा या सहायता दी जाएगी। श्रीमन् यह तो कर्ज है। इसके अतिरिक्त मैं रेट आफ इन्टरेस्ट के बारे में भी कहना चाहूंगा।

हमारी पिछली सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त लोन पर जो रेट ऑफ इन्टरेस्ट पहले 14 से 18 परसेंट हुआ करता था, उसको घटाकर 8.50 से 9 परसेंट का काम किया है। हमारे प्रधानमंत्री जी ने यह भी कहा था कि मैं तो यह चाहता हूं कि आगामी दो वर्षों के अंदर एग्रीकल्चर लोन पर रेट आफ इनटरेस्ट किसी भी सूरत में। ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): राजनाथ सिंह जी, आप कुछ प्रश्न पूछ लीजिए और कन्क्लूड कीजिए।...

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: श्रीमन्, इन लोगों ने मुझे पहले बोलने नहीं दिया ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): पहले आप कुछ प्रश्न पूछ लीजिए और इसके बाद कन्क्लूड कीजिए क्योंकि अब आपका समय हो चला है। आप कुछ प्रश्न पूछ लीजिए और कन्क्लूड कीजिए।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: श्रीमन्, यदि मुझे पांच मिनट मिलें और कोई डिस्टर्ब न करे तो मैं सारी बातें संक्षिप्त में रखूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): अब जल्दी कीजिए।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: मैं जल्दी करूंगा, कृपया समय मिल जाये। श्रीमान्, आप मुझे संरक्षण दें ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): He is concluding now. राजनाथ सिंह जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: श्रीमान्, मैं यह कह रहा हूं ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) He is asking some specific questions. Hon. Members, please, let him speak ...*(Interruptions)* ..

You will have your say . *(Interruptions)*.

Your name is there . .*(Interruptions)* .

You will have your say ...*(Interruptions)* .

राजनाथ सिंह जी, आप बोलिए ....(व्यवधान)....

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Farmers need not only water and air, they need money also to create infrastructure in rural areas. ...*(Interruptions)*. .

श्री संजय निरुपम (महाराष्ट्र): सभापति जी, मेरा प्वांइट ऑफ ऑर्डर है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): आप यह कौन-से रूल के तहत कर रहे हैं?

श्री संजय निरुपम: सभापति जी, इस बयान में मंत्री महोदय ने बजट का जिक्र किया। बजट के सारे प्रोविजन्स का जिक्र किया। अगर उसके बाद बजट के उन प्रोविजन्स के ऊपर माननीय सदस्य अपने सवाल खड़े कर रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)... तो वही राजनाथ सिंह जी ...(व्यवधान).. कर रहे हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): The Member has the right to speak; whatever he wants to speak, let him. But I am afraid राजनाथ सिंह जी, अब समय खत्म हो रहा है, आप कुछ स्पेसिफिक क्वेश्चन पूछ लीजिए Please do not disturb him. We are dispensing with the lunch hour also. Hon. Members, it is a very important issue Please, let him speak.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: श्रीमान्, इन आत्महत्याओं को रोकने के लिए दो बातों पर विशेष रूप से ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। किसान के पास जो खेत है, उस खेत की आमदनी के प्रति वह पूरी तरह से आश्वस्त हो जाए और दूसरी चीज उसे सही समय और सही ब्याज दर पर कर्ज प्राप्त हो जाए। अगर हम भविष्य में नौ फीसदी की ब्याज दर पर कर्ज देते रहेंगे तो किसी भी सूरत में किसान का कल्याण नहीं हो सकता। आत्महत्याओं की घटनाएं इसी प्रकार आगे बढ़ती रहेंगी, इन्हें रोका नहीं जा सकता। इसीलिए हमारी पिछली सरकार ने एक नई स्कीम, ''फार्म इनकम इंश्योरेंस स्कीम'' लागू की थी। मैं इसके लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा कि...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): आप बैठ जाइए, उन्हें बोलने दीजिए।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपनी बजट स्कीम में ''कृषि आमदनी बीमा योजना'' के औचित्य को स्वीकार किया है। मुझे याद है कि ग्यारह राज्यों के बीस जिलों में मैंने यह पायलट स्कीम लागू की थी और यह फैसला किया था कि जून में, देश के 110 जिलों में कम से कम एक फसल के लिए, अक्टूबर, 2004 से दो फसलों के लिए सारे हिंदुस्तान में यह ''कृषि आमदनी बीमा योजना'' लागू की जाएगी। मैं आपका विशेष रूप से ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा और चाहूंगा कि इस संबंध में हमें जरा विस्तार से बताने की इजाजत मिलनी चाहिए कि ''कृषि आमदनी बीमा योजना'' क्या है। मैं समझता हूं कि अगर मैं इसे सदन के सामने रखूंगा तो सारे सदस्य इस पर गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार करेंगे कि कैसे खेत की आमदनी तय की जा सकती है? हमारी आमदनी तय है, आपकी आमदनी तय है, वेतनभोगी प्राणियों की आमदनी तय है, लेकिन किसान की आमदनी तय नहीं है। खेत होने के बावजूद सूखा पड़ गया, बाढ़ आ गई, अकाल पड़ गया, किसान के खेत में अन्न का एक दाना भी पैदा नहीं होता ...(व्यवधान)...यह व्यवस्था ''कृषि आमदनी बीमा योजना'' के अंतर्गत हमने की थी। इससे हम निकालेंगे कि एक एकड़ में पिछले सात वर्षों में एक किसान ने टोटल कितना प्रोडक्शन किया है। मान लिया जाए कि एक किसान ने सात वर्षों में एक एकड़ में सत्तर फूड ग्रेन पैदा किया है तो एक वर्ष का एवरेज प्रॉडक्शन दस क्विंटल हो गया। यदि

गेहूं का मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस 630 रुपए पर क्विंटल हो गया तो 10x630=6300, यही उस किसान की एक एकड़ की गारंटी इनकम मानी जाएगी। यह जो इश्योरेंस होगा वह गारंटी इनकम का इंश्योरेंस होगा। इस इंश्योरेंस स्कीम के तहत् जहां पर प्रोडयूस इंश्योर्ड होगा वहीं पर प्राइसेस भी इंश्योर्ड होंगी, क्योंकि आज हमारे किसानों को अपना फूड ग्रेन बाजार के लिए जो कम्पीटिटिव मार्किट मिलनी चाहिए, वह कम्पटिटिव मार्किट नहीं मिल पाती है। उस दिन कृषि मंत्री जी ने उत्तर देते हुए ''एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडयूज मार्किटिंग कमेटी एक्ट'' की बात की। उन्हें चर्चा की और उन्होंने कहा कि सारे राज्यों से बातचीत हो चुकी है। मैंने स्वयं सारे राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों से बात की थी। वह किन-किन राज्यों में लागू हो पाया है, इसकी जानकारी मैंने चाही थी, लेकिन वे जानकारी देने में (व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please conclude now समय बहुत ले लिया है।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: जहां तक इलेक्ट्रिसिटी का सवाल है, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी के संबंध में .... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): राजनाथ सिंह जी, आप जरा कन्क्लूड कीजिए, बहुत समय ले लिया है।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: महोदय, मैं कन्क्लूड कर रहा हूं। इलेक्ट्रिसिटी के बारे में भी मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इसकी भी एक माकूल व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। साथ ही साथ जो पब्लिक इन्वेस्टमेंट शब्द का प्रयोग किया जाता हैं, इसको रीडिफाइन करने की जरूरत है। एग्रीकल्चर में जो पब्लिक इन्वेस्टमेंट होता है, उसका 90 प्रतिशत केवल इरीगेशन पर चला जाता है। और शेष न के बराबर इनवेस्टमेंट होता है, फिर कैसे एग्रीकल्चर का विकास होगा। महोदय, कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों के बारे में 15 हजार करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान हम लोगों ने किया था ताकि हर कोऑपरेटिव बैंक जिसकी आर्थिक हालत बिगड़ चुकी है या जर्जर हो चुकी है, किसानों को पर्याप्त कर्ज मुहैया नहीं करा पाते हैं और क्योंकि इस देश का किसान 70 फीसदी कर्ज कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों से हासिल करता है तो उनके नन-परफारमेंस असेट्स से निजात दिलाने के लिए 15 हजार करोड़ रुपए की व्यवस्था हमारी सरकार ने की थी, लेकिन माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपने बजट भाषण में इस बात की कहीं पर भी चर्चा नहीं की है कि कैसे कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों की हालत सुधर पाएगी? ...(व्यवधान)... मान्यवर मैं इस पेपर की ओर भी ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा I am quoting it from the Weekly Organ of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

आप लोगों ने भी इस बजट की सराहना नहीं की है। आपने कहा

"Further, the actual budgetary allocations for crucial programmes such as rural employment schemes, Antyodaya Anna Yojana etc. are no higher

than had already been provided in the interim Budget of the previous Government."

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): राजनाथ सिंह जी, अब कनक्लूड कीजिए, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: "Much larger allocations under these heads, as well as for the rural sector generally, were expected, given the stated priorities of the Common Minimum Programme."

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): राजनाथ सिंह जी, आपने बहुत समय ले लिया, कृपया समाप्त कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद राजनाथ सिंह जी। Rajnath singh ji, please conclude now...(व्यवधान) राजनाथ सिंह जी, अब आप कनक्लुड कीजिए क्योंकि बहुत सारे स्पीकर्स हैं। अब आधे मिनट में कनक्लूड कीजिए।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: मान्यवर, मैं National Employment Warranty Scheme के बारे में चर्चा करना चाहता हूं। आपने 100 दिन के रोजगार की बात कही है कि हर गरीब को 100 दिन का रोजगार मुहैया कराया जाएगा, लेकिन गरीब...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI C RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, continuous interruptions are there. He is discussing about the condition of farmers, about the incidents of suicide by farmers. ...(*Interruptions*). . How can it be related to agriculture? ..(*Interruptions*) .

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): आप बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... राजनाथ सिंह जी, कल बजट पर डिस्कसन होगा, उसके लिए भी कुछ मैटर रखिए।

SHRI C RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, why has the Minister made a reference about the agriculture? (*Interruptions*)...

Please stick to the subject

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: मान्यवर, मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): राजनाथ सिंह जी, अब प्लीज कनक्लूड कीजिए।

He is just concluding .(*Interruptions*).... He is just concluding. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: लेकिन उसको define नहीं किया गया है। (व्यवधान)... उसका भी बजट में कहीं पर उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है। मान्यवर, रोजगार के लिए...(व्यवधान)... प्रधान मंत्री ग्रामीण सड़क योजना के माध्यम से...(व्यवधान)... लेकिन उसका भी कहीं पर उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है।

फिर आपने 1 मिलियन वाटर बॉडीज के रिपेयर की बात कही है और 100 करोड़ का प्रोवीजन किया है तो इसका काम कैसे चलेगा? मान्यवर, अत्योदय अन्न योजना के बारे में आपने कहा है कि इसके अंदर कवर होने वालों की संख्या को डेढ़ करोड़ से बढ़ाकर दो करोड़ करेंगे, वह नहीं किया है... (व्यवधान)... इन सब संकटों से आप उसे निजात नहीं दिलाएंगे तो किसानों का कल्याण कैसे होगा? इसलिए मैं अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि सरकार को इस बारे में विशेष रूप से ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है कि किसान को पर्याप्त कर्ज, समय पर कर्ज और उचित ब्याज दर पर कर्ज प्राप्त हो सके। साथ-ही-साथ कृषि आमदनी बीमा योजना को भी प्रभावी तरीके से लागू किया जाना चाहिए। महोदय, मैं पूरे विश्वास के साथ कह सकता हूं कि जिस दिन पूरी तरह से 25-26 फसलों के लिए यह कृषि आमदनी बीमा योजना इस देश में लागू कर दी जाएगी तो आगामी 5 वर्षों के अंदर इस देश की इकॉनोमी में Boom आने से कोई ताकत रोक नहीं सकती है। विशेष रूप से महोदय, इतना ही मैं अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं। धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी) : धन्यवाद, राजनाथ सिंह जी। श्री रावुला चन्द्रशेखर रेड्डी। देखिए, यह कॉल अटेंशन है, बजट डिस्कसन नहीं है, इसलिए मेहरबानी करके please stick to the subject.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I am aware of the limitations in a Calling Attention Motion.

Sir, right from the day one, we were trying to raise the issues concerning the farmers At last, Mr. Chairman is kind enough to allow us to raise them through this Calling Attention Motion

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon Minister towards the incidents o suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh, the moratorium and its effects, the release of water from Karnataka, the problems concerning crop insurance or loan insurance, and also towards the memorandum submitted to the hon. Prime Minister on 1st July, 2004 in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, as regards the first issue of suicide committed by the farmers in Andhra Pradesh, as of now, for the past two months, 691 have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, I am having all the details, village-wise and person-wise. Even today, it appeared in the newspaper that yesterday, 8 persons had committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh.

The situation is alarming It is not a blame game I would like to draw the attention of the hon Minister to the steps taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the recent past. One aspect is that they have declared a moratorium On the one hand, they have declared a

moratorium for six months on private loans, excluding the loans by cooperative banks and commercial banks, and on the other hand, they are controlling the private money-lenders Their action plan for the present year shows that the farmers need Rs. 36,000 croes, whereas the cooperative banks and the commercial banks have come forward with an action plan of Rs. 11,000 crores. The farmers are at a loss to understand the position of the Government. From where can they get the balance amount of Rs 25,000 crores for investing in the current year? The hon Minister needs to pay attention to this. He should enlighten us on this There is no alternative credit plan with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. I request the hon. Minister of the Government of India, at least to advise the Government of Andhra Pradesh and help them in preventing suicide of famers.

The second aspect is regarding the release of water from Karnataka. We have been trying since long to impress upon the Government of India and the Ministry of Water Resources to see that suitable directions are given to Karnataka to release some water to the lower riparian State of Andhra Pradesh. We are having severe drinking water problem. We are having problems in getting water not only for agriculture but also for drinking. The Almatti dam is full and even today they are not releasing the water. Andhra Pradesh is a lower riparian State. All the dams constructed on Krishna river, right from Jurala, Srisailam, Nagarjunasagar to Prakasam barrage, are empty. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to see that some water is released to Andhra Pradesh at once, not three or four or five days after. The situation is alarming

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Had we got water, farmers in Karnataka would not have committed suicide.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Yes, I am aware of your former Chief Minister shifting from his own constituency to some other constituency. There are suicides in his own constituency. I am aware of this problem. My request to the Government of India is to see that some water is released to Andhra Pradesh.

The third aspect is regarding crop insurance. This is virtually a loan insurance. Whenever a loan is given by a commercial bank or a cooperative bank, it promptly insures the loan portion and the farmers are left with no money. It is literally a loan insurance. Look at the insurance policy.When a car is insured and an accident takes place, a person from the company rushes to the spot, gets an assessment done and makes the payment

then and there. Why don't you do this to a farmer, who is in distress and who is striving very hard to help the nation by producing rice, etc.? Why should not he be compensated adequately? There the problems are more. They are illiterate. They remain in the remote villages. I would request the hon Minister to have a re-look into the whole system and to reorganise the crop insurance pattern. This is another aspect.

The important issue is farmers committing suicides in Andhra Pradesh. Why are they doing it? I don't know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that a Committee was constituted by the Government of Karnataka. That Committee, after going in-depth into the suicides in Karnataka, gave its report to the Karnataka Government There also the suicides are on the higher side. I request the Government of India to make an in-depth study of the whole problem of farmers not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in Karnataka and other parts of the country. Some remedial measures should be taken to enable the farmers to face the situation. There should be some support from the Government of India also. For instance,we are very weak in post-harvest mechanism. We don't have any post-harvest mechanism We don't have storages, cold storages, etc We don't have of these things Recently, in Andhra Pradesh tomato growers have suffered a lot. They are throwing their produce on roads There is no market for them and there is no storage facility. These are all perishable commodities We are very weak in post-harvest mechanisms I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the very important aspect of storage facilities for retaining perishable commodities The farmers should be allowed to keep their produce in cold storages and when they are in a position to get some reasonable price, they should be allowed to sell their produce In the meantime, they sould be given some financial assistance.

Sir, I am also aware of the Kisan Credit Card scheme The NDA Government had launched this scheme. This scheme needs to be strengthened. The farmers should have the liberty to raise any crop and their crop should be insured and they should be guided properly Sir, at present, village is considered as one unit. I would request the hon Minister to see that crop is considered as a unit

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please conclude

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY As I said earlier, I am aware of the limitations on the Calling Attention Motion Since the problem is very grave...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr. Reddy, please seek clarifications.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, the problem is very grave.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): That is why I am allowing you to speak.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I am not making any political speech. I am talking about the plight of farmers. I come from a very remote village. I am aware of this problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Please carry on.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I would like to make a request to the Chair When we discuss the problems of farmers, if necessary, the rules should be relaxed We waste a lot of time of the House on many issues

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please carry on.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: The other aspect is water. The upper riparian States should always release water on time to other States Sir, as you are aware, Tamil Nadu is suffering. Then Andhra Pradesh is suffering at the hands of Karnataka. The Government of India...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry to say...*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): We are discussing a very important issue I am not allowing you. *(Interruptions)*. Please sit down (*Interruptions*). Nothing is going on record. It is a very important issue. Mr Reddy, are you yielding? *(Interruptions)*. Mr. Reddy, please carry on. Let Mr. Reddy speak. *(Interruptions)*. Nothing is going on record.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:*

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVED): Mr. Reddy, please carry on. *(Interruptions)*. Nothing is going on record. Let Mr Reddy speak. Hon. Members, we are discussing a very important issue. Please do not disturb him. You will have your chance. Mr. Reddy, please address the Chair and carry on.

*Not recorded

1 00 PM

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, my friend has forgotten to look at the statement made by the hon. Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr. Reddy, if you could stick to the statement, that would be very much appreciated.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I am quoting the statement made by the hon. Minister. Cases of suicides have been reported not only from Andhra Pradesh but also from Karnataka. In Karnataka, they are on the higher side. My friend says that it is due to misrule. I would like to question the hon Member

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): You question the Minister, not the Member

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY. Is it not a fact that the Chief Minister of Karnataka had shifted from his constituency to some urban constituency? *(Interruptions)*.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh).*

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr Reddy, please carry on *(Interruptions)*. Please don't digress.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY I reiterate that this is not a blame-game I never wanted to take the name of the Chief Minister of Karnataka, but my friend has forced me to mention his name

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please don't digress.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, we had submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister on 1st July when he visited Hyderabad In that memorandum, we have narrated the plight of farmers I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what has happened to our memorandum which was submitted to the hon. Prime Minister.

Please enlighten us on the steps taken after the submission of the memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister Finally, Sir, there are two-three things to say. One is on the release of water from Karnataka

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI). I just interrupt you for a minute. Hon. Members, it is one o'clock There are many Members

*Not recorded

to speak So, if the sense of the House is that, then we can dispense with the lunch break. Is the sense of the House to dispense with the lunch-break? Yes. You all agree All right.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: The first point is about the release of water from Almatty to Andhra Pradesh. The second is about the package or any decision taken by the Government of India to prevent farmers' suicide. The Minister should spell out on this. The third one is about re-looking at the insurance policy The fourth one is about rehabilitating the families of those farmers who have committed scuicides under distress.

There should be an adequate credit plan. Since moratorium is imposed in Andhra Pradesh, it is very difficult for the farmer to get a loan even from a neighbour, relative. They are afraid of giving loan to the farmers The present enactment of Andhra Pradesh says, whenever there is pressure from the lender, they should immediately report to the police. So, now people are afraid of giving even hand-loans to the farmers.

There is only Rs. 11,000 crores for the Action Plan which is contemplated in the current Plan What about the rest of the money? Rs. 25,000 crores is required in addition to this Rs. 11,000 crores. On this the hon. Minister must enlighten us and the Government of India should come to the rescue of the poor farmers of Andhra Pradesh. Once again, I would request the hon. Minister not to throw the blame, or not to shift the burden on to the States. There should be no blaming each other. This is most important In view of the farmers' plight in a Andhra Pradesh, I request the hon. Minister to come out with a suitable proposal. Thank you.

श्री संजय निरुपम: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारा देश एक कृषि प्रधान देश है और यहां लगभग 70 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा लोग किसान हैं या किसानों की जिंदगी जी रहे हैं या किसान परिवार के सदस्य हैं। उनके प्रश्न के ऊपर कोई राजनीति नहीं होनी चाहिए और मैं भी कोई राजनीति नहीं करना चाहता हूं। यह दूसरी बात है कि आंध्र प्रदेश में उसी प्रश्न पर सरकार बदल गई। मैं इसलिए यह जिक्र कर रहा हूं क्योंकि आंध्र प्रदेश में चुनाव से पहले 3,000 काश्तकारों ने सुसाइड किया था, ऐसा हमने अखबारों में पढ़ा, देखा और सुना।

डा॰ अलादी पी॰ राजकुमार: यह गलत है।

श्री संजय निरुपम: हो सकता है, लेकिन उसके बाद क्या हुआ कि वहां पर कांग्रेस ने चुनाव में यह विषय रखा, यह मुद्दा रखा और इसके आधार पर लोगों के वोट लिए, उस नयी सरकार के आने के बाद भी किसानों की आत्महत्या का क्रम रुका नहीं है। पिछले 2 महीनों में लगभग

700 काश्तकारों ने वहां सुसाइड किया है। यह मैं इसलिए बता रहा हूं क्योंकि यह जो पूरा बयान है मंत्री महोदय का, यह बयान और कुछ नहीं है, बस एक लीपापोती है। आपने बजट में जो बहुत सारी योजनाओं का जिक्र किया है, वे योजनाएं नयी नहीं हैं, बहुत दिनों से हैं। हमारा मुद्दा यह है कि उनको तत्काल राहत क्या मिल रही है? अगर आंध्र प्रदेश में नयी सरकार ने तत्काल किसानों को राहत दी होती तो पिछले 2 महीनों में लगभग 700 काश्तकार सुसाइड नहीं करते। लगभग 700 काश्तकारों ने वहां सुसाइड किया और बिल्कुल वही स्थिति इस समय महाराष्ट्र में है। मुझे बड़ी खुशी हुई कि पहली बार केन्द्र सरकार के बयान में यह बात मानी गई है कि महाराष्ट्र में भी किसानों ने सुसाइड किया है। दो साल पहले जब यही विषय लेकर मैं यहां खड़ा हुआ था, महाराष्ट्र में किसानों की आत्महत्या के प्रश्न पर मेरा कॉलिंग अटेंशन था, तो सरकार ने कहा था कि राज्य सरकार यह कहती है कि फसलों की विफलता की वजह से या सूखे की वजह से किसी किसान ने सुसाइड नहीं किया है, अगर किसी किसान ने सुसाइड किया है तो इस वजह से कि कोई टी०बी० का मरीज था, कोई पेशेंट था, किसी ने शराब ज्यादा पी ली थी, इस प्रकार का बयान दिया गया था। तब मैंने इसका बड़ा विरोध किया था। पहली बार सदन में केन्द्र सरकार ने इसे स्वीकार किया है और निश्चित तौर पर राज्य सरकार ने इनको कन्फर्म किया होगा।

मेरा सवाल शुरू होता है-जो मैं अपनी तरफ से क्लैरीफिकेशन पूछना चाहता हूं- कि महाराष्ट्र में सचमुच कितने काश्तकारों ने फसल की विफलता की वजह से आत्महत्या की है? जिस प्रकार से नयी सरकार ने आने के बाद प्रधानमंत्री जी स्वयं आंध्र प्रदेश गए, निश्चित तौर पर बड़ा अच्छा काम किया कि वहां जाकर वे काश्तकारों से मिले। हमने उनकी सराहना की, व्यक्तिगत तौर से मिलकर हमने उनकी सराहना की कि आपने अच्छा काम किया। लेकिन बिल्कुल वही स्थिति इस समय महाराष्ट्र की है। हम पिछले एक हफ्ते से प्रधानमंत्री जी को एक मेमोरेंडम देने के लिए, एक एमपी की क्या दशा है, आज आपको बताता हूं- शिवसेना पार्लियामेंटरी पार्टी की तरफ से एक मेमोरेंडम लेकर हम प्रधानमंत्री जी के पास जाना चाहते हैं, उनसे समय मांग रहे हैं कि आप आंध्र प्रदेश की तरह महाराष्ट्र में भी आइए लेकिन प्रधानमंत्री जी मिलने का भी समय नहीं दे रहे हैं। आंध्र प्रदेश जाकर उन्होंने जिस प्रकार का जेस्चर दिखाया, बिल्कुल उसी जेस्चर के इंतजार में महाराष्ट्र के काश्तकार भी बैठे हैं। अब मेरा निवेदन आपसे यह है कि प्रधानमंत्री जी आंध्र प्रदेश की तरह महाराष्ट्र भी जाएं और महाराष्ट्र के काश्तकारों का भी दुख-दर्द समझें। वहां पर किसानों ने किस प्रकार से आत्महत्याएं की और कितने काश्तकार अब तक आत्महत्याएं कर चुके हैं, वह जरा बताने की कोशिश करें। आपने बताया है कि वन टाइम सेटलमेंट होगा। यह वन टाइम सेटलमेंट कैसे होगा, जरा मुझे बताइए। जिसकी फसल खत्म हो चुकी है, जिसके घर में पैसे नहीं हैं, जिसके बैंक अकाउंट में पैसे नहीं हैं, जिसकी जेब में पैसे नहीं हैं, वह आखिर पचास हजार तक का लोन कैसे चुकाएगा? आत्महत्या के कारण क्या हैं? मुख्य कारण यही

है कि जो कोऑपरेटिव बैंक और कमर्शियल बैंक इन्हें लोन देते हैं, उस लोन को फसल की विफलता की वजह से, मानसून नहीं आने की वजह से, मानसून की विफलता से वे लोग रीपे नहीं कर पाते और बार-बार एक पठान की तरह बैंक वाले उन किसानों को टॉर्चर करते हैं, उनको परेशान करते हैं जिसकी वजह से किसान सुसाइड करता है। मुझे इस बयान में ऐसी कोई तत्काल राहत नहीं दिख रही है। महोदय, जब हमारी सरकार थी, दिल्ली में एनडीए की सरकार थी, तब आपकी सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र की सरकार ने एनडीए की सरकार से 1700 करोड़ रुपए का एक पैकेज मांगा था, महाराष्ट्र के किसानों को राहत पहुंचाने के लिए-जो सूखा पीड़ित हैं, जो फसलों की बर्बादी की वजह से परेशान हैं, जो लोग सुसाइड कर रहे हैं- कि ऐसे तमाम काश्तकार समुदाय को राहत देने के लिए 1700 करोड़ रुपए दिए जाएं। इस सरकार ने नहीं दिए। उसके बाद क्या हुआ, सबको मालूम है। अब इस नयी सरकार से मेरी ऐसी मांग है कि जो आपकी सरकार ने, कांग्रेस की राज्य सरकार ने हमारी सरकार से, एनडीए की सरकार से मांग की थी, कम से कम उस मांग को पूरा करिए और 1700 करोड़ रुपए तत्काल, जितनी जल्दी हो सके, राज्य सरकार को देने की कोशिश करिए। बैंकों में, कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों में, विशेषकर महाराष्ट्र में जो होता है, बैंकों द्वारा लोन वसूलने का जो कार्यक्रम है और जिस प्रकार की जोर-जबर्दस्ती, और अगर अनपार्लियामेंटरी शब्द न हो तो जिस प्रकार से दादागिरी, बैंको की तरफ से की जाती है, उसको कहीं न कहीं कंट्रोल करने की, उसको नियंत्रण में लाने की जरूरत है। मंत्री महोदय, आपसे मैं यही निवेदन करूंगा, हालांकि आपका कृषि मंत्रालय नहीं है, आप एक दूसरे मंत्रालय के मंत्री हैं, हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी की तबीयत ठीक नहीं है, वे नहीं आए हैं या फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर भी नहीं हैं, फिर भी मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि आप सरकार तक हमारा यह निवेदन पहुंचाएं कि बैंकों से लोन वसूली की जो व्यवस्था है, उस व्यवस्था को चेंज किया जाए ताकि किसान आत्महत्या करने पर मजबूर न हो सकें। आपने अपने बयान में बताया कि कर्नाटक को लगभग 332 करोड़ रुपए दिए जा चुके हैं। आपने बताया कि आंध्र प्रदेश को लगभग 140 करोड़ रुपए दिए जा चुके हैं लेकिन आपने महाराष्ट्र के बारे में एक भी बात नहीं बताई है जबकि आपने बताया है कि महाराष्ट्र में भी काश्तकार सुसाइड कर रहे हैं। इस पर आप क्यों चुप हैं? दूसरा, 1700 करोड़ रुपए की जो मांग मैं अपनी तरफ से कर रहा हूं, जो कभी आपकी सरकार ने की थी, उस बारे में आप आखिरकार आने वाले दिनों में क्या निर्णय ले रहे हैं? तीसरा, ये जो आपने स्कीम्स बताई हैं कि In order to achieve these objectives, the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, has announced a number of initiatives to provide relief to the farmers. मुझे लगता है कि यह बहुत बड़ा फर्जी सा बयान है। इस बयान को वापिस ले लीजिए क्योंकि इस बयान से जो बजटरी घोषणाएं हैं, इन घोषणाओं से महाराष्ट्र के किसानों को कोई राहत नहीं मिलने वाली है। तत्काल अगर इस कॉल अटैंशन का आपके मन में, आपके दिमाग में, आपके दिल में कोई महत्व है तो एक राहत देने की घोषणा कीजिए। जैसे पिछले हफ्ते हमारी पार्टी का एक शिविर औरंगाबाद में था। हम लोगों को मालूम है

कि महाराष्ट्र की आर्थिक स्थिति बहुत अच्छी नहीं हैं लेकिन किसानों को तत्काल राहत देने की जरूरत है इसलिए हमने घोषणा की कि जिस दिन हमारी सरकार आएगी, उस दिन किसानों के ऊपर जो भी कर्ज है, लगभग पांच-छः हजार करोड़ का कर्ज है, वह सारा का सारा कर्ज हम माफ करेंगे। मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि जो काश्तकार फसल की विफलता की वजह से बर्बाद हो गया है, आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर हो गया है, सबसे पहले केन्द्र सरकार को यह निर्णय करना चाहिए कि उस काश्तकार के ऊपर जो भी कर्ज है, उस कर्ज को सदा सर्वदा के लिए माफ करें। फिर उसको एक सॉफ्ट लोन दें, उसको बीज दें और उसके बाद उसको यह व्यवस्था दी जाए कि आने वाले एक दो वर्षों में वह अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हो सके ताकि वह आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर न हो।

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Maharashtra): Sir, finding that suicides have taken place in States ruled by different parties, and different kinds of political dispensation, I think what we must first do is not to politicise this issue at all; nor is it an occasion for blaming Government 'A' or Government 'B' which is in power in a particular State. The issue is more a psychological issue, a social issue that requires to be dealt with by other measures than merely by this kind of political criticism. Sir, looking at the Budget, there is no doubt that the Finance Minister has done his best to create measures and make allocations, which doubtlessly will solve the problems of the farmers. But the benefits which will accrue to the farmers from the implementation of the Budget are going to be long-ranging benefits and which are not going to percolate down immediately to the farmers' level and those who are on the verge of terminating their life. And if there are people who are bent on committing suicide now, I do not think they can prevent suicides by telling them that there is a Budget and please look forward to the Budget and its benefits. So, something more urgent has to be done. What that 'urgent' something has to be done, frankly, with my not adequate familiarity with agriculture and the problems of agriculture, I am not in a position to make any practical suggestions or propositions for solving the problems. But What I do feel is, let us have some kind of conference of the hon. Members both in Assemblies and in Parliament who represent the farmer lobby, who can really speak on behalf of the farmers and let us sit together and find out ways to tackle their immediate problems. Sir, after all, a person commits suicide when the mechanism of survival in the human system fails, when the will to live disappears, and that comes like a momentous response of the human system. What are those provocations, which ultimately compel a man to give up his life and pass on to the other world? These are things which require immediate

contact with the farmer, his family and very intimate knowledge of his immediate problems, I suggest, Sir, that this calls for a conference of those who can speak with much greater assurance and familiarity about the problems, and then, perhaps we will be able to help and resolve this problem of continuing suicides. Sir, I do not think I need waste more of your time. The problem is a tragic problem. I am one of those who think that ultimately man's first basic need is food. And the farmer caters to that basic need. According to me, a farmer on this earth is a representative of God. Whatever other measures we might take for the rest of our electorate and rest of our citizens, those are not adequate for the farmer. The farmer must be singled out for our compassion and our care and some measure for keeping him happy. I hope, Sir, that will be done hereafter and the Government will look after his interests. Thank you.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (Punjab). Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity for making a brief but a pointed intervention on a matter which must be of the gravest concern to each one of us. While I speak, I speak with a great sense of anguish. Fifty-seven years down Independence, we still have facts, tragic facts that stare us in the face. Despite the political divide that divide us, as far as the plight of farmers is concerned, as far as the tragedy of suicides is concerned, we must all, one and all, submit with respect to the despotism of facts. What are those facts? Only four facts I want to recite for the benefit of the House. Sir we have an estimated increase of foodgrains production of 212 to 215 million tonnes this year and yet one-fourth of our people go without food every day. Forty seven per cent of our children under the age of three suffer from malnutrition and 14,933 deaths by suicides have been reported till date. Out of this, 9400 odd are from Andhra Pradesh and the rest divided among Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka and Orissa Sir, the most tragic part of it all is that despite sensitivity to the problem, despite unanimity on the imperatives of urgent action and despite a political resolve, somewhere down the line there is a disconnect between the resolve and the delivery system. When I come to putting my questions to the hon. Minister, these are the questions I am going to put to him. But, Sir, before do that I want to bring one other fact to your notice. India is perhaps the only country where, over the years, there is a decline in the per capita consumption of cereals. In 2001, India consumed 141 kilograms of cereals per person. In 2003 that has come to 132 kilograms as against 345 in China and 850 in United States. Sir, what is the correlation? I want to invite your kind attention

to the correlation, the correlation between poverty and the decline of consumption of cereals It is apparent from the fact that there is a decline in the income levels in the agricultural sector and this decline is in part due to the failure of the previous Government to put in adequate investment in irrigation, to put in adequate investment in the agricultural and the rural infrastructure. I can read aloud the issues that need to be tackled but this is not the place or the motion for that Sir, I only want to say that in a country like ours where 70 per cent of the people of India, the consience of India, resides in the villages, it resides in the soul of the impoverished farmers, no claim to governance is complete, no justification for power is valid unless we ensure that this segment of our population that for years has lived on the margins is bought to the Centre of our concren. Sir I am proud of the fact that my Prime Minister, our Prime Minister, made his first visit to Andhra Pradesh Why is it that the CMP, the manifesto of the Congress Party gives a pride of place to the remedials measures, the remedies for the farmers who have been unable to live a life of dignity which the Constitution of India guarantees and proclaims with aplomb, more particularly to the rural farmers? Sir, before I conclude I must only tell you this In a sense, this is not a subject, cannot be a subject, for blame game. I am going to be the last person to attribute faults to A, B or C. We all have a duty in common, a bonding in common to those who cannot even manage two bare meals for themselves, for their families or for their children. Sir, what is it that we must promise to the nation from the highest forum of our parliamentary democracy? It is only this, that if there is any sense in the future, it is to strive for a future that promises equality of opportunity and a life of dignity to all Sir, someone said human life is a constant pre-occupation with the future and nothing concerns man more and nothing can make more sense to man than a certainty or an assurance of a future to which he can look to We must ask ourselves that question and I ask the hon Minister this question Will we vindicate our promise to the people of India? Will we keep faith with those who brought us to power, to ensure that the basic modicum of a life of dignity, and subsistence is ensured to the people? Sir, Laski said many years ago—and I read him in college, that if you control the subsistence of man, you control his will. If we want freedom in this country to have meaning for the poor, we must at least ensure that the will of the poor man is not controlled by the inadequacy of his material subsistence and this, Sir, is really the core of this debate

Sir, one last point and I have done I believe that power must heighten sensitivity. It must inspire imagination of purpose And, above all, it must

ensure compassion and my party's Manifesto and the C M.P of the U.P A have shown that compassion. The hon Prime Minister's visit to Andhra Pradesh, his call to the nation on the 24th June, 2004, and the repeated declarations of the new Government that farmers, the impoverished lot, people who have lived on the margins, will be the centre of the concern of this Government. In doing so, I believe, we have kept faith with those who elected us to govern in their name and to exercise power. But, Mr. Minister, two more questions and I have done. What are you going to do within rotting of foodgrains? What are you going to do to ensure that, while people of India are starving, we do not export foodgrains? There was a sorry spectacle in the last few years, while people of India starved, while the Supreme Court was seized of starvation death cases, the earlier Government exported 12 million tonnes of foodgrains! This is a colossal shame. I would implore upon the hon Minister that he must ensure that there are post-harvest facilities He must, at the same time, ensure that the decline in investment in irrigation and agriculture is reversed and redressed. Theories are not enough but theoretical frameworks are necessary to ensure that their practical application or implementation is not denied for long. You have laid down a theoretical framework. Please ensure a delivery system

With these words, I thank you, Sir, once again for having given me this opportunity to speak on this important subject

SHRI R.S GAVAI (Maharashtra) Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the issue we are discussing under today's Calling Attention is of a grave concern The suicidal deaths in many parts of the country are a matter of great concerns to all of us. I request the hon Minister to apply his mind because this has been happening during the last five years. What are the reasons? Whether the hon. Minister of Agriculture is aware of the fact that, for the first time, the agriculture industry, which is supposed to be the key industry of the nation, is indicating a negative growth. This may also be co-related to the suicidal deaths that are taking place in different parts of the country. The agriculture industry involves 80 per cent of the population—farmer, cultivator and labourer—of the country. As I said earlier, this being the key industry, it is indicating a negative growth. I may say in mild language that it is a matter of worry to all of us I know that this being is issue of today's Calling Attention, there are certain limitations. It is not a regular discussion wherein I can participate and express my views in detail. But, at the same time, within the allotted time, I would like to suggest something to the hon. Minister. Sir, I think, some drastic schemes are to be adopted and

operated hereafter Due to the WTO, the dumping problem is still a matter of great concern to the agriculturist because they give sufficient subsidy and we are discouraging subsidy here I don't want it to that level. But, at the same time, let the Government of India come forward and declare that till today all the loans of small and marginal farmers would be waived once and for all. It may affect our Budget But have some drastic scheme.

Secondly, the pending loans of the small and marginal farmers should be restructured in a fashion that they are converted into long-term loans with long-period instalments, and that too with the lowest rate of interest.

Thirdly, the insurance scheme, which is there in various parts of the country, including my State, that is, Maharashtra, is of no use. Where is the proper implementation? Is there any sincerity? If at all there is any insurance scheme for the identified areas of a district or a State, say, for the livestock or for the agriculture, for the small and marginal farmers, it should be implemented sincerely If it requires adoption of any amendment or a change in the existing insurance laws, that should be done

Sir, I dare not to say—this may be a very broad statement to request, through, you, to the Government—that the cooperative banks, which exist at the village level, should be nationalised because after all they are the cooperative. Those banks are the most cooperative to agriculturists. So, there is a great need to reform the banking system of the cooperative banks at the lower level, the middle level and grass root level at the villages so that the small and marginal farmers may get loans at a lower rate of interest, and, at the same time, may not face any harassment.

Sir, I happen to be a member of the Assurance Committee The Committee has examined so many defaulters Amounts to the tune of rupees one lakh crores is pending with the industries The number of such defaulting industries may be one thousand They are the defaulters. Then, what sin have these small and marginal farmers committed? Why can't there be a one-time reasonable settlement in their case once and for all to get them free from tension and worry? I am neither speaking about the irrigation nor about the linkage of the roads because that is a thing of the past, and also because the subject matter of the Calling Attention is very limited

But, at least, assure them something is being done in the Western countries. The cultivators and small weavers, whether they are big or small, are affected by losses in one way only The farmers are incurring losses every year It has become a regular feature for the Indian farmers. You

should, at least, adopt some scheme for the upliftment of the farmers I don't want to specifically mention any scheme here But, I would like to suggest a scheme whereby whatever expenditure is incurred by the farmer on the various crop patterns, he should be able to get a proper return from selling and marketing his produce He should get maximum profit, not a minimum profit The farmers should be assured of this This is the main reason for the suicidal deaths that are taking place in different parts of the country I want to say that it is a matter of grave concern for all of us I hope the hon Minister will consider whatever suggestions I have submitted here Thank you, Sir

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh) Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, the suicide by farmers is a very serious issue The practice of committing suicides started during the year 1998 It began with the cotton farmers' The failure of the cotton crop led to the suicide of farmers in Andhra Pradesh Now, suicides are spreading from one State to the other State also Suicides by farmers' are spreading from one crop area to another crop area They have spread from farmers cultivating the unirrigated area to those who are cultivating the irrigated area The nature of suicides that are taking place has to be properly analysed In the hon Minister's statement, it has been analysed in a different way Suicides did not take place during the 80's, suicides did not take place during the 70's, and that suicides are taking place only from 1998 onwards In the past four-and-a-half years only, in Andhra Pradesh, 3,500 farmers have committed suicides In the last two months, from April 15th onwards till yesterday, 505 farmers committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh I would like to know from the hon Minister as to why the suicides by farmers are spreading now only at such a magnitude The suicides by farmers are taking place in other States too What are the reasons for this? The reasons that have been explained here are not commensurate with the reality The Minister in his reply said that farmers are committing suicides due to crop failure But, crop failure was there even in the past also Before 1998, a number of crops failed in many places Then, he said that it was because of drought In the earlier period also, droughts had occurred There were much more serious droughts also, we have seen them As far as the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, from 1985 onwards, for three years, there have been severe droughts But, then, at that time, no suicides had taken place They are taking place only now During the last 4-5 years, suicides have taken a serious turn and have been increasing at an alarming rate

So, the reasons that are given in the statement are not enough The other reasons like high rate of interest on loans and other debt problems

that are faced by peasants have to be properly analysed Sir, as far as agriculture is concerned, I feel, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, an emergency situation has arisen Why? What is it? It should be understood properly. Unless we, understand the magnitude of the problem, and the reasons behind it we cannot come to the rescue of the peasantry. Sir, we have to analyse the reasons behind the suicides of 3500 farmers and I have a list comprising the name of the peasant who has committed suicide, date on which he committed suicide, name of the village to which he belongs and the extent of land he is holding, we will find that 80 per cent of them come under the age group of 24-25 years. Shri P.A. Chowdhury, who was former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court along with some other intellectuals formed a Commission and toured the entire State. They conducted a survey It toured different districts and interviewed a number of peasants and various organisations. They have submitted one report to the then Government. Sir, if we analyse that report, we will find that out of 3500 farmers who have committed suicide, 80 per cent of them come under the age group of 24-45 years Not only that. Sir, if we see the areas were these suicides are taking place, we will find that these are non-delta areas, un-irrigated areas. Even if it is an irrigated area, where that area is a tail end area, no proper irrigation facility is provided. Sir, majority of the suicides had taken place in areas where farmers were completely dependent on the ground water, bore wells and electricity Sir, with due respect, I submit to this House that this issue has to be properly analysed I am not at all happy with the statement that has been made here by the hon. Minister. This is not focusing on the reality. Not only that The remedies that have been suggested in this statement are not commensurate with the reality. For example, no mention has been made of the Food-for-Work-Programme in this statement. If suicidese are taking place at such an alarming rate, and from one State, it is spreading to other States, something has to be done. From Andhra Pradesh, it is now spreading to Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa and Kerala. But, in this statement, no mention has been made about Kerala. According to my information, a large number of suicides have taken place in Kerala. That is not mentioned here My question is: how many suicides have taken place in Kerala? That has not been mentioned. What remedial measures the Government has taken? That should also be mentioned. My humble submission to this House is, the main reason for such a state of affairs is that the State has gone back from its role as a promoter of agriculture Significantly, the State has not only vacated the space that truly belongs to it, but actively facilitated the entry of the landed gentry to occupy this vital space This is felt in every aspect

of agricultural sector in Andhra Pradesh So, my request is, the issue has to be properly studied For that, the Government of India should come forward with a proposal to constitute a Commission on this matter The rural debt and investment survey has to be taken up An All India Commission should be formed I would like to know whether such a proposal is there with the Government of India or not

Sir, I request the hon Minister to think about it

Then, another thing is that, in the answer, it is not mentioned as to whether the Government of India is thinking of the 'food for work' programme or not If the Government really wants to come to the aid of the peasantry at this hour of distress, it should come up a proposal for the 'food for work' programme It is not mentioned whether the Government has any such proposal or not

There is a mention about doubling the credit But, I fail to understand one thing—there is a proposal for doubling the rural credit in the ensuing three years When suicides are taking place now, many people are dying, you are talking of doubling of credit in three years! What is it? I wish to know whether there is any proposal, are any immediate Steps! This season, the peasantry is badly in need of credit For this particular year, what proposal does the Government have? That needs to be explained.

Sir, the hon Prime Minister toured Andhra Pradesh and visited the worst affected areas, where many suicides had taken place I am very happy that the Government of India has given a serious consideration to the issue, for the first time the Prime Minister visited Andhra Pradesh, gave assurances to the distressed farmers, and announced certain remedial measures there But my submission is that, in the whole of India, only in Andhra Pradesh the problem is of such a great magnitude, about 4000 peasant suicides have taken place I would like to know whether there is any special package for irrigation in Andhra Pradesh, because lack of irrigation is one of the main causes for the farmers committing suicide (*Time bell*) So, is there any proposal with the Government for providing a special package for taking up the irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Please, conclude

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU Sir, I shall conclude shortly

Sir, regarding debt, in this particular scenario, some commitment must be there Doubling the credit is just one aspect, waiver of loans for the poor and small farmers is an aspect to be considered immediately If we take the Indian agriculture scenario, out of 110 million holdings, 80 per

cent are of poor and marginal farmers. If the Government of India won't come to the rescue of these farmers, the Andhra Pradesh Government cannot do away with the credit fully (*Time bell*) The Government of India should come to the aid of the small and marginal farmers and provide them some relief.

Sir, one last question for the Minister There are two Acts known as the Seed Act and Pesticide Act. But the Act is sleeping. It does not come to the rescue of the farmers in distress. Spurious pesticides and spurious seeds are rampant, many companies are minting money. But not even a single trader is caught hold of and punished. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal before the Government to amend the Acts. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it is very disheartening to learn about the deaths of farmers in various States of this country Sir, Tamil Nadu is reeling under the third successive Monsoon failure that means, at least, two crops a year and consecutively six crops have failed. Sir, in most parts of Tamil Nadu, for want of Cauvery water, agriculture has failed. I can quote few incidents. In Vanchiyur of Thiruvarur district, it is reported that only chaff cropped up in place of paddy. In Vadapathimangalam village in Thiruvarur district, over a thousand of acres of fertile land is laying waste. The famous Punavasal canal and several other canals are thick with weeds. In the Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu, even arecanut, coconut and mango trees have died. The Central Water Ministerial Team deputed to assess the drought in Tamil Nadu saw only the bone-dry irrigation tanks and ponds. Namakkal district and Pudukottai district faced the same situation. The irrigation tank at Ammanur near Arakkonam is dry and the famous double lakes at Ladapuram village in Perambalur district, which are called Kanavaai lake and the Kurumbalur lake, have also dried. The Central teams saw only sands in Cauvery tributaries such as Vennar, Vetter, Koraiyar, Kooghaiyar and Baminiar. The Red Hills the Sholavaram lake and Poondi reservoir have nearly dried.

Sir, the rural economy is failing and it is heavily affected. The debts of small and medium farmers are mounting. They are unable to pay back their debts. The Agricultural Cooperative Banks are very harsh and they keep up pressure in this bad situation. This is the reason the farmers are forced to commit suicides. Sir, I can quote several places in Tamil Nadu like Kottaimedu in Karur, where the situation is worst. It is reported that farmers cannot even afford to drink tea. Sir, there is a very pathetic situation in the Cauvery Basin. In Nagapattinam, Thanjavur and Thiruvarur, the farm

labourers are now rendered jobless and they are forced to go out of their districts and move out of their States in order to seek employment in neighbouring States like Kerala Sir, there is an interim order passed by the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal according to which Karnataka ought to have provided Tamil Nadu 196 TMC Feet of water There is also a distress-sharing formula arrived at by the Cauvery Monitoring Committee under which Tamil Nadu should have received 90 TMC Feet of water

I am not blaming Karnataka here I also understand that the situation there is also not very appreciable But, the Minister should come forward and the good office of the hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet Minister should be used to get water for Tamil Nadu Sir, the Federation of Farmers' Association, Tamil Nadu, has given a detailed memorandum to the Central Drought Assessment Team and it has indicated (*Time-Bell*) that in 70 per cent of the cultivated area, crops have failed and even in remaining 30 per cent of the cultivated area, farmers have got very, very poor yield Tamil Nadu is facing the worst drought in the last 60 years Out of 29 districts of Tamil Nadu, except five districts, rest have not received sufficient rainfall in the last monsoon Sir, during the last two years, Centre has given relief under various funds like the National Calamity Fund and SGRY to the tune of Rs 280 crores and also given foodgrains to the tune of 17.45 lakh metric tonnes This is not sufficient and I only pray that they have to consider providing some more relief for Tamil Nadu With these words, I thank you

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal) Thank you, Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to take the floor Sir, I would confine myself to some immediate questions Sufficient has been discussed, not only for the first time, but we have been discussing this subject for the last 3-4 years It has become a perenial problem now-suicide of farmers and the miserable and deplorable condition of lives of poor people in the rural India where the majority of our population dwell Almost 67 to 70 per cent people of our country lives in rural India and the lives of those people have become miserable in the recent past According to my own information, it is simply because of the vigorous and over-enthusiastic implementation of the dispensations of globalisation, that is, liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, that has led to such serious situation that has precipitated in this country I am being reminded of an experience of a Russian friend of mine long-long back-some 20 years back-when he was in Calcutta After touring India, he used to tell me that one thing has been revealed that perhaps, God is there in India only If at all God is there, that is in India only Otherwise, people are not involving themselves in civil strikes and

people are not committing suicides in mass despite the serious poverty existing in India. Sir, during the last 5-6 years, the situation has become far more deplorable So, my primary question to the hon. Minister, who is acting on behalf of the Agriculture Minister, who is sick I am told, that whether this new Government has taken sufficient lessons from history, whether they have noted the wilful omissions and commissions of the Government which was being led by the anti-people organisation, named Bharatiya Janata Party, and take corrective actions forthwith. This is the question number one

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, what is this...*(Interruptions)*. Should I remind him of what happened in Amlasol. .*(Interruptions)*.

श्रीमती सविता शारदा (गुजरात): सर, यह क्या हो रहा है?...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Manojji, please stick to the statement

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA. Sir, I have just asked a question

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Please, don't digress.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA Sir, I have not digressed at all. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN. (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Ahluwaliaji, please. I will handle. Manojji, please don't make it controversial Please stick to the statement.... (*Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA I am sticking to the statement only I have not digressed at all (*Interruptions*)

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सर, इतने सालों से पश्चिमी बंगाल में क्या हो रहा है? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA. Sir, for the last 25 years, what they have been doing. People are dying there because of starvation...(*Interruptions*)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): अहलुवालिया जी, इनको बोलने दीजिए।

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: I will come back to that because according to me, that will be the most important thing to ask from this new Government. Whether they have gathered sufficient information about the omissions and commissions. Once again, I will qualify, "wilful omissions and commissions of the Government", which has just been removed by the mandate of the people. What have they done? According to me, or,

according to many of us, during the time of elections, just concluded elections, the five-star and seven-star managers of this corporate type political organization or political outfit (*Interruptions)* They have gone for India Shining, and, feel-good factors, and, even though, scores of scores of thousands of people were committing suicide

SHRI S S AHLUWALIA Sir, are we discussing about the political parties of this country, or, are we discussing the (*Interruptions*) Sir, I need your protection

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Ahluwaliaji, I did not interrupt Shri Raj Nath Singhji, but I would request Manojji (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA Sir, I am not yielding I am not yielding (*Interruptions*) This is unnecessary interruption

SHRI S S AHLUWALIA Sir, we are talking about the agricultue (*interruption)* Should I learn things from him (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA Sir, this is the character of the* (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHARIMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Manojji, can you please (*Interruptions*) Ahluwaliaji, let me handle (*Interruptions*) Ahluwaliaji, please let me handle this (*Interruptions)* Manojji, please one minute Mr Bhattacharya, please one minute (*Interruptions*) Ahluwaliaji, please let me handle Manojji, could you please stick to the statement I will appreciate There is not much theme left Please, please be brief

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA Sir, I am sticking to the statement only I shall, once again, say (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Whatever is unparliamentary will be expunged (*Interruptions*) Whatever is unparliamentary will be expunged (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA Sir, I am very conscious Sir, if at all I utter something unparliamentary, you are absolutely at liberty to expunge those I am not talking anything (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Please carry on Please carry on Address the Chair, and, carry on

SHRI S S AHLUWALIA Sir, what is anti-poor (*Interruptions..)*

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA Sir, I shall only repeat Please correct if at all I am wrong, if at all I say something unparliamentary

*Expunged as ordered by the chair

2.00 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Thank you

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I only said that the five-star or the seven-star managers of the corporate political outfit, when they went for the propaganda in the country about the India Shining, and, the feel-good factor, they did not consider it prudent on their part to consider that the thousands and thousands of peasants were committing suicide and those were not rich farmers. Those were marginal and poor farmers. Rich farmers did not die. And, Sir, I would just like to say that, here in this statement, the hon. Minister has talked about the completion of the irrigation projects, investing in rural infrastructure, providing farm insurance and live stock insurance etc., etc. and, Sir, we must take notice of it. I am just drawing the attention of the hon. Minister to the past experiences of ours. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, when the target was 3.4 million hectares of land per year to be irrigated by minor irrigation, where the maximum private participation was envisaged, Sir, in reality, the achievement in the entire Ninth Five Year Plan was only 1.8 million hectares of land per year. That has resulted in a serious situation in the rural area. This is number one. Number two, I would say about the loans. As far as the question of loans to the poor and marginal peasants is concerned, I must submit to you, Sir—this must be noted by the hon. Minister, or, the new Government—that forty per cent, as much as forty per cent, of the loans for the poor and marginal peasants or farmers, are from the informal sources, are from the private sources. Private moneylenders are playing havoc. And my friend, Madhu. ..(*Interruptions.*.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please conclude. Please

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: I am just coming to, and, I am absolutely to the point, Sir. Please allow me because they are interrupting too much. Sir, I would also like to understand from the hon. Minister whether they have noted that during the drought year—there was a severe drought in 1987-88—and during those years, the poverty had not shown any increase, as there were massive rural work programmes. Particularly, in the States like Rajasthan and Gujarat, the adverse impact of drought could be mitigated with implementation of these programmes.

In fact, the poverty declined in the year 1987-88. On the other hand, there were no such programmes during the drought of 2002-03, in spite of

40 to 50 million tonnes of foodgrains soiling in FCI. Sir, what is very significant feature is that, over and above this situation, in the Budget for the year 2003-04, the allocation for the rural employment was reduced. Kindly make a note of it. I will request the hon. Minister to kindly take note of it that for the *Sampuma Grameen Rojgar Yojana,* the allocation in the Budget for the year 2002-03 was Rs. 3,996 crores. The revised estimate was Rs. 8,642 crores, and, whereas in the Budget for the year 2003-04, it went down surprisingly. Why shouldn't people commit suicide? It went down to Rs. 4487.50 crores. The Food for Work Programme in the Budget of 2003-04 was for Rs. 600 crores. The Revised Estimate was as much as Rs. 860 crores.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please conclude

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: I am just giving a few examples as the lessons for the new Government ..(*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please , conclude You have already exceeded your time

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA. In the Budget, the Food for Work Programme which is essential for the survival of the poor people in rural areas was completely withdrawn. It was nil. For the total rural employment, the allocation was Rs. 4,596 crore in 2002-03. In the Revised Estimate, it was Rs. 9,502 crore, whereas in the Budget, it went down to half, Rs. 4,487.50. Sir. .(*Interruptions).*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Thank you, thank you, Mr Bhattacharya Thank you.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: And , Sir, regarding investment in Research and Extension...(*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Please, conclude now.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: I am just concluding it Investment in Research and Extension was only 0.3 per cent in the last 5-6 years. So, Sir, my question is whether the Government is mindful that these have to be formidably looked into. No lip service will serve the people of this country. No lip service will help the poor people to survive in this country. So, is the Government absolutely serious and committed to the cause of the poor, the marginal peasants in particular? In fact, regarding the institutional loan, I have also the figures, but I cannot quote because the time is not to my advantage. The institutional loans are being mostly usurped by the big farmers, the kulaks, since in the country of ours uptill

now, the land reforms could not take places Unless the land reforms take place—it is a very serious problem, where we should concentrate—we cannot take care of this problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Please, conclude now.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I am also interested to ask the hon. Minister.. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI). This should be the last question.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Okay, Sir, last question Even now, we are suffering from an illusion. We are suffering from an illusion that public private investments will increase in the rural areas. Sir, the experience of the past 50 years, or more than that, is that in the rural areas, in the backward areas, where the people are really committing suicide and dying because of starvation, the private investments are not at all available. The private investors are not going in the rural areas or the backward areas. So, I would like to know whether the Government is considering to revamp the public investment Is the Government serious that they must revamp the public investment measures? Not by converting the fund The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund should not be converted or turned into a loan-lending agency But, whether the Government is specially thinking of allocating some more funds for the marginal and poor peasants, has to be taken into consideration

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) Thank you, Mr. Bhattacharya

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: With these words, Sir, I express my serious agony. I am anguished; I must say that I am seriously anguished that the situation is absolutely deplorable and unless we take care of this on a war-footing, we cannot simply say "with next 5-6 years" That will not serve the situation of ours We have to tackle this situation on a war-footing. We must address this issue and must not commit the same blunders as the last Government has committed Thank you, Sir

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI). Thank you, very much Mr. Bhattacharya Shri Samadani

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, I would confine myself to a few pointed queries considering the constraints of the agenda

of this Calling Attention. Sir, this is a very serious problem. There is no difference of opinion about that, and the phenomenon is now spreading throughout the country, in every State. Sir, as a part of the diagnosis to find out what is the real background, what are the real causes that create a kind of suicide tendency among the farmers, I would like to identify three major problems. I would like to draw the esteemed attention of the hon. Minister to these three areas. One, is the high interest rates that the banks have to control. The high interest rate has become a very important, major, problem and a very major hurdle in the way of the farmers. The second problem is the limitation of the irrigation system. When we go and observe the pattern of the suicides taking place throughout the country, we will be able to udnerstand that those areas where the problems of irrigation are more, there are more suicides taking place. So, Sir, this is a very important area. Sir, the most important problem is the market value of the products We should be able to control the market value. That means, our measures must be for enhancing the rates of the agricultural products so that the farmers will be able to get a good income. Then only this problem can be powerfully and effectively tackled. Sir, as far as agricultural crops like coconut, rubber, tea, coffee and other products are concerned, their rates were very low last year. In that case, if we want to reform the system, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is ready to bring enough basic reforms in the import policy. If only the import policies are controlled, the market value can be brought into a balancing position Sir, in the new budgetary proposal, the palm oil import duty will be increased by 75 per cent. So that will help the rate of coconut products come to a higher level. These kinds of policies and programmes are now very much needed. It is a welcome move that the agricultural loans will be doubled within three years. That period can be reduced. If that period is reduced from three years to one year, then it will be a great blessing for the farmers throughout the country. The taxes on agricultural instruments have been brought down and the most important thing is that the Government must bring in a system to collect the agricultural products so that their market value can be brought into a good condition. Sir, the wrong policies of the last Government regarding the import have to be corrected. This is a very urgent necessity. There is no doubt that the suicide incidents that had happened in the last year were due to the wrong policies adopted with regard to export and import. Sir, the arecanut farmers are also facing very major problems in the country. They must be provided with some assistance

Finally, the farmers of Kerala are also suffering. I would like to request

the hon. Minister to bring some package Please declare some package for the State of Kerala. There also farmers are suffering There are deaths and suicides taking place in the State of Kerala. I think the Hon. Minister will take these things into consideration, and some halp will be rendered in favour of the State of Kerala with special reference to the agricultural farmers in the fields of arecanut, coconut, tea, rubber, coffee and pepper. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, at the very outset, I thank Mr. Ahluwalia and other hon. Colleagues for raising this Calling Attention before this House. Sir, as you are aware some parts of the country faced unprecedented droughts during the last three years I will confine myself first, before going to other parts of the country, to Karnataka We have got 176 talukas Out of that, 162 talukas were reeling under severe drought That was unprecedented It had never happended in the history of Karnataka We have brought before the House earlier also, the severe sufferings which had been faced by the people, particularly the farmers of Karnataka Sir, when we presented the memorandum highlighting the grievances of farmers of Karnataka, the Agriculture Minister, Mr Raj Nath Singh, was considerate He had concern for the farmers He wanted to help the farmers of Karnataka But, unfortunately, the then Government did not have the mind to help the farmers of Karnataka

Sir, the fact given in the statement placed before the House by the hon Minister, with due respect to his Department, I can say, is not fully correct, so far as Karnataka is concerned. Sir, in the Governor's Address, he has clearly stated that while the State Government had sought a special assistance of Rs. 4,759.54 crores and 25 5 lakh tons of foodgrains for relief measures, the Centre provided Rs. 308 93 crores and 9.5 lakh tons of foodgrains. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, we do not have any grievance against the assistance given to Andhra Pradesh But a step-motherly treatment was meted out to the Karnataka farmers and the Karnataka people. Unfortunately, higher assistance was given to Andhra Pradesh, whereas the severe drought situation of Karnataka was practically neglected Hundreds of farmers had committed suicide because they could not bear their debt burden. Sir, I will give one example. I went to Raichur District of Karnataka after taking over the office of Pradesh Congress President. I met the family of a farmer whose five daughters and a son had committed suicide. I asked them why they had committed suicide The father and the mother mentioned that there was a heavy debt burden; they borrowed money from a cooperative bank, from a commercial bank and

also from private money-lenders for the construction of open wells and bore wells All the bore wells failed; open wells also failed, and they could not pay back the amount. So, the children committed suicide. Then I asked them why the children had committed suicide. Both the father and the mother stated that they were not in a position to give them food for seven days in spite of the fact that the children had been demanding food for their survival....(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Vice-Chairman, kindly pay your attention to it. Sir, after waiting for food for seven days, their five children committed suicide! That was the plight of farmers. That was the plight of farmers living in not only Karnataka but also in other parts of the country.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) in the Chair]

Sir, if you take into consideration the plight of farmers of Karnataka as well as of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the same situation continues. The questions are simple, whether we are in a position to come to the rescue of these farmers; whether the Government has got the political will; and whether they have got the commitment. Here, I would like to submit that in the House we have with us Mr. Priyaranjan Dasmunsi. Though he is not looking after the Agriculture Department, he is Minister committed even today to the cause of not only the poor but also the farmers and the labourers. I request him, I appeal to him: You have got the mind, Mr. Priyaranjan Dasmunsi. Even though you are not the Agriculture Minister, you can approach the Prime Minsiter, you can approach the Finance Minister. You can use your personal commitment, your personal influence, for coming to the rescue of farmers. For that purpose, if you require the assistance of Parliament Members, cutting across party lines, we will help you in approaching the Prime Minister. We have to come to the rescue of farmers. The time has come now. If they don't get some relief, what will happen? I submit that their purchasing power has gone. They are not in a position to cultivate. They are not in a position to irrigate their land. They are not in a position to get water. Now, the question is simple. What can they do, if you don't come to their rescue? How can you come to their rescue? Sir, I will just bring to our notice one thing. When Indiraji was the Prime Minister of this country, I was the Minister looking after the financial institutions. She made a statement here, "if the drought continues for years together, if, for specific reasons, the farmers are not in a position to pay back the amount to the banks, I will write off the loan. The Government will write off the loan including the interest". Now, my submisssion is that when there is continuous drought for three or four years in many areas,

including Rajasthan, when the farmers are not in a postion to pay back the amount, when they don't have the purchasing capacity, what can you expect from these farmers and farm labourers? So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would come forward to write off the loans as also the interest The amount is not very large You know that, Sir. What is the NPA that is due from big industrialists, rich people, to the banks? When we consider that, this amount is nothing. The Government can write off the loans including the interest I would like to know from the hon Minister whether it could be done For that purpose, I request the hon Minister—I know he has got the mind and he can do this—to use his influence over the Prime Minister

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I think you will have to finish now.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY Sir, just one minute Karnataka has hardly 20 per cent of its arable land under irrigation. It is expected that it will reach 30 per cent as and when all the irrigation projects are entirely completed. Even then, 70 per cent of the total arable land is still subjected to the vagaries of monsoon. The recent drought has put us in great difficulty The Karnataka Government has come forward with a proposal for watershed development. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider it and make sufficient allocation to this programme. With these words, I conclude Thank You

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA). How long can we go on like this? Normally, a Calling Attation is given one hour and we have already taken more than 2 hours and 20 minutes

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, sorry I am to speak. Drought in Andhra Pradesh is a very important issue *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) No, Your turn, in any case, is not there. Please sit down You can't speak just like that. You were absent *(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY My name is there.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Please wait Let me see. Shri Vidya Sagar Nishad

श्री विद्या सागर निषाद (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष, महोदय, आज मैं राज्य सभा के इस पटल पर पहली बार बोल रहा हूं, इसके लिए मैं उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय को धन्यवाद देता हूं और साथ ही साथ मैं लालू प्रसाद यादव जी को भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने हम जैसे फिशरमैन को आज इस सदन में आने का मौका दिया।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस देश में कृषकों के प्रति चिंता करने वाले तीन प्रधान मंत्री आए। सबसे पहले श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जब इस देश के प्रधान मंत्री बने तो उन्होंने ''जय जवान जय किसान'' का नारा दिया। कृषकों की चिंता करने वाले दूसरे प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में चौधरी चरण सिंह आए जिन्होंने किसानों के प्रति मुखातिब होकर, किसानों के उपयोग में आने वाली चीजों पर सब्सिडी देने का काम किया। जो तीसरे प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में आए हैं, वे हमारे देश के किसानों के प्रति चिंतित हैं। उन्होंने किसानों पर टैक्स मिटाने का काम किया है, टैक्स छोड़ने का काम किया है। इतना ही नहीं, किसान के लिए जो होना चाहिए, चाहे बीमा की योजना हो, चाहे कोई और योजना हो, ये सारी योजनाएं, जो सही किसान हैं, उनकी ओर मुखातिब की गई हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): सुनिए, भाषण देने से नहीं चलेगा। आप एक-दो प्वाइंट रेज़ कर दीजिए। कॉलिंग अटेंशन में आपको स्पेशली दो मिनट दिए गए हैं। अगर कोई प्वाइंट क्वेश्चन हो तो आप रेज़ कर दीजिए।

श्री विद्या सागर निषाद: जिस प्वाइंट पर हम बोलना चाह रहे हैं, हमें बोलने दिया जाए।

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: बोलने दीजिए, ये इनकी मेडन स्पीच है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): मेडन स्पीच है तो इनको इस समय बोलना नहीं चाहिए। आप बैठ जाइए। जब आपका ठीक से मौका आएगा तो आप 20 मिनट बोलिएगा। आप अपना मेडन स्पीच क्यों खराब कर रहे हैं?

श्री विद्या सागर निषाद: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं फिशरमैन हूं और किसानों के संदर्भ में चर्चा करना चाहता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): सुनिए, निषाद साहब, सब लोग किसानों के बारे में ही बोल रहे हैं आप आखिरी वाक्य कहकर खत्म कर दीजिए। ऐसे हाऊस नहीं चल सकता। आपको मालूम है, 27 स्पेशल मैंशन हैं, फिर रेलवे बजट का जवाब होना है आप हाऊस चलने दीजिए।

श्री विद्या सागर निषाद: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कृषि मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन और आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि बिहार में खगरिया एक ऐसा जिला है जहां मकई की खेती सबसे ज्यादा होती है और वह मकई की खेती हजारों एकड़ जमीन पर होती है। मैं चाहूंगा कि वहां पर मकई की खेती के लिए कोई फैक्टरी खोली जाए। वहां केले की खेती होती है, वहां पर चिप्स बनाने के लिए फैक्टरी खोली जाए, जिससे वहां के किसानों को राहत मिल सके। इतना कहकर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): विजय दर्डा जी, आप 2 मिनट से ज्यादा मत बोलिएगा।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, my name is there. I also want to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Your turn will come.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: They are saying so many things. I am very disciplined.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I am not responsible for what they are doing I am responsible for want you are doing. Please wait.

श्री विजय जे. दर्डा (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का अवसर दिया। किसानों के विषय पर किसी प्रकार की राजनीति नहीं होनी चाहिए, मैं ऐसा मानने वालों में से हूं। यह किसानों का देश है और हम उनके बेटे हैं लेकिन किसानों के प्रश्न को पिछले दिनों में जिस तरह से लिया गया है और जिस कारण से आज देश में हजारों किसान सुसाइड कर रहे हैं, वह बहुत ही गंभीर विषय है। शर्म की बात यह है कि हम आज 21वीं सदी में जाने की बात कर रहे हैं, राष्ट्र को महान बनाने की बात कर रहे हैं और इसकी गंभीरता को ध्यान में नहीं रख रहे हैं। यह देखते हुए हमारी आदरणीय नेता श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी जी ने डॉयरेक्शन दिया है और उसके परिणामस्वरूप प्रधानमंत्री जी ने और फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपने बजट में किसानों के लिए नयी नीति की घोषणा की है, इसके लिए मैं उनको बधाई देना चाहूंगा।

महोदय, पिछले 5 वर्षों में एन.डी.ए. सरकार ने किसानों के लिए कुछ भी नहीं किया, जो कुछ भी किया, राज्यों में भेदभाव ही किया। जहां-जहां पर उनकी सरकार थी उन्हीं राज्यों को उन्होंने खुलकर मदद की और उन्होंने राज्यों को सूखे के लिए चुनाव सामने आने पर पैसा दिया... (व्यवधान)...

कुछ माननीय सदस्य: 5 साल नहीं, 6 साल।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आपको क्या प्रॉब्लम है? इसमें कुछ व्यक्तिगत प्रॉब्लम तो है नहीं। आप केवल बोलने के लिए बोलना चाहते हैं, उससे कोई लाभ नहीं होना है। विजय जी, बोलिए।

श्री विजय जे. दर्डा: महोदय, हमने महाराष्ट्र के लिए 1700 करोड़ रुपए मांगे थे, लेकिन उनको मदद नहीं दी गई, पर्याप्त धन नहीं दिया गया। किसान आत्महत्या कर रहे थे, पशुधन मर रहे थे ओर पीने के पानी की भी कमी थी। इसके बावजूद उन्होंने कोई राष्ट्रीय नीति नहीं बनाई। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो अभी जानकारी दी है, उसमें आंध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक और केरल का ज़िक्र किया है, लेकिन महाराष्ट्र का ज़िक्र नहीं किया है। सूखे से लड़ने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार ने क्या सहायता दी है, कितनी राशि दी है, कितना फूडग्रेन दिया

है और कितने किसानों ने आत्महत्या की है, यह मैं जानना चाहूंगा। क्या किसानों का ऋण माफ किया जाएगा। महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ और आंध्र के बॉर्डर पर वैनगंगा नदी पर बांध बांधने का जो प्रस्ताव है, उस प्रस्ताव को वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय तथा जल संसाधन मंत्रालय जल्दी से जल्दी मंजूरी दे सिर्फ लालफीताशाही में लटकाये नहीं ताकि इसका लाभ महाराष्ट्र, विदर्भ एवं आन्ध्र के किसानों को मिल सके। इतना कहते हुए मैं सरकार से सिर्फ यही जानना चाहूंगा कि 1998 में या उसके बाद किसानों की इतनी आत्महत्याएं क्यों हुईं? क्या इससे पहले सूखा नहीं पड़ा था? क्या इससे पहले ऋण के प्रश्न या और प्रश्न नहीं थे? मगर उसके बावजूद भी 1998 के बाद हज़ारों की संख्या में आत्महत्याएं क्यों हुईं, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं, धन्यवाद। (समाप्त)

श्री गांधी आज़ाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद महोदय। माननीय मंत्री जी ने, देश के विभिन्न भागों में किसानों की आत्म हत्याओं के विषय में जो घटनाएं घटी हैं, प्रदेश से आए आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जिन्हें स्वीकार भी किया है तथा यथासूचित मुख्य कारणों पर भी प्रकाश डाला है। महोदय, उसमें ऋणग्रस्तता को दिखाया गया है। हमारा मानना है कि ऋणग्रस्तता का भी कारण होता है। आजकल गांवों में अशिक्षा, अज्ञानता और जागरूकता की कमी के कारण गांव के दलाल किस्म के लोग, चालाक किस्म के लोग, किसानों को यह कह करके, कि इसकी सरकार द्वारा वसूली नहीं की जाएगी, माफ कर दिया जाएगा, ऋण ले लेते हैं और फिर उसको देने की योजना नहीं बनाते हैं और एकाएक वसूली किए जाने पर भी उनको भुगतना पड़ता है। साथ ही साथ, मैं अभी एक घटना को उद्धृत करूंगा कि मैं आजमगढ़ जिले का दौरा कर रहा था। वहां एक गांव में लगभग 25 व्यक्ति, जिनमें महिलाएं भी थीं, हमारे सामने आकर रोने लगीं। जब उनसे मैंने पूछा कि क्या बात है, तो उन्होंने बताया कि हमारे गांव के एक व्यक्ति ने इंदिरा आवास दिलाने के लिए फोटो ले लिया था। हमको आज तक आवास नहीं मिला, बल्कि कर्जा वसूली आ रही है। वसूली में उनके दो-चार आदमी बन्द भी थे। हमारा मानना है कि कृषि मंत्री जी को इसकी भी तहकीकात करानी चाहिए। इसके साथ ही साथ, जिन कारणों को उद्धृत किया गया है, उसमें एक कारण यह है बर्बरतापूर्ण, निरंकुशतापूर्ण वसूली प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों द्वारा की जाती है। इसके कारण भी किसानों द्वारा आत्महत्याएं की जाती हैं, क्योंकि पांच सौ से पांच हजार की वसूली जो किसानों पर होती है उसकी तो निरंकुशतापूर्वक वसूली की जाती है और जो बड़े-बड़े बकाएदार होते हैं उनको केवल सलाम ठोक कर ही काम चलाया जाता है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से एक स्पेसिफिक सवाल करना चाहता हूं कि देश के विभिन्न भागों में आत्महत्या किए गए किसानों की कुल संख्या कितनी है और उन पर बकाया धनराशि कितनी है? हमारा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि बड़े-बड़े बकाएदार जो देश के बैंकों से ऋण लेता हैं उनमें बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति भी हैं, व्यापारी भी है और एक तरफ किसान भी हैं, मैं इनका तुलनात्मक रूप से पिछले तीन वर्षों का जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो देश में बैंकों द्वारा ऋण जारी किया जाता है उसकी स्थिति क्या है तथा इसमें किसानों द्वारा कितना ऋण लिया गया है

और बड़े व्यापारियों और उद्योगपतियों द्वारा कितना ऋण लिया गया है तथा उसकी वसूली का प्रतिशत क्या है? किसानों से कितना वसूल किया गया है और बड़े व्यापारियों तथा उद्योगपतियों से कितना वसूल किया गया है? साथ ही साथ अगर एन॰पी॰ए॰ हुआ है तो वह किसानों पर कितना है तथा बड़े उद्योगपतियों व व्यापारियों पर कितना है?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): अब आप खत्म करिए।

श्री गांधी आज़ाद: माननीय मंत्री जी, हमारा सुझाव है कि बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपतियों और व्यापारियों पर एन॰पी॰ए॰ ज्यादा है, किसानों की अपेक्षा। इसलिए इन बड़े व्यापारियों और उद्योगपतियों से एन॰पी॰ए॰ वसूल करके, किसानों का ऋण, जो असहाय हैं वह माफ किया जा सकता है। धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): श्री शरद जोशी जी, दो मिनट। मैं जानता हूं कि यह आपका बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट सब्जेक्ट है लेकिन समय की कमी है। आपको पहले से नाम देना चाहिए था।

श्री शरद अनंत राव जोशी (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं दो मिनट तो नहीं कम से कम पांच मिनट में खत्म करने की कोशिश करूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आप दो मिनट में खत्म करने की चेष्टा करिए।

श्री शरद अनंत राव जोशी: कॉलिंग अटेंशन का विषय है– "किसानों की आत्महत्याएं" तो मैं इस समय केवल किसानों की आत्महत्याओं के बारे में ही बोलूंगा। खेती के बारे में जो विचार है या आज के बजट के बारे में जो विचार है उस पर रखने का समय अलग मिलेगा। यह दुख की बात है कि कृषि मंत्री ने अपने स्टेटमेंट में करीब-करीब, इकानोमिक सर्वे में एग्रीकल्चर के बारे में जो कहा गया उसका कट एंड पेस्ट करके आज का स्टेटमेंट बनाया है। तो बाकी के मेंबर भी मजबूर हो गए विस्तृत स्टेटमेंट करने में। मैं यह निवेदन करने से पहले श्रद्धांजली देना चाहूंगा कि जो करीब 5 हजार से ज्यादा किसान खुदकशी पर मजबूर हो गए और उनके लिए मैं खेद भी व्यक्त करूंगा कि हम उनको न बचा सके और न उनको जीने की उम्मीद दे सके। विषय आत्महत्याओं का है, तो पहली बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि आत्महत्या करने वाले किसान किसी एक गुट या किसी एक वर्ग के नहीं हैं। अभी-अभी माननीय सदस्य मधु जी ने जो कहा कि जस्टिस चौधरी ओर पहले सदस्य यहां रह चुके शिवाजी ने, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में जो एक इन्क्वायरी की थी, उसका निष्कर्ष उन्होंने यह निकाला था कि सारी आत्महत्याओं में किसी भी एक जमीन धारणा, किसी भी एक वर्ग, किसी भी एक फसल का, कोई संबंध नहीं है। ये आत्महत्याएं एक्रास द वर्ल्ड हुई हैं।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि आत्महत्या पांच साल पहले शुरू हुई, यह कहना गलत है। पांच साल से इसकी रिपोर्टिंग सुधर गयी है। लेकिन उसके पहले भी छुपी हुई आत्महत्याएं होती थीं। किसान आंदोलन से और किसान परिवारों से परिचय होने के बारे से मैंने देखा कि बहुत पुराने

जमाने से जब लोग बूढ़े हो जाते थे और वे देखते थे कि अपने ही लड़कों पर वे बोझ हो रहे हैं तो वे कहते थे कि लड़के अब मुझे काशी जाने दो, क्योंकि काशी जाना बहुत अच्छा होता है। किसान जो बूढ़े होते थे, उनके लिए काशी जाना ज्यादातर आत्महत्या का ही एक रूप होता था। आत्महत्याओं के कारण क्या हैं? हमेशा हर आत्महत्या एक विशेष इंडिविजुअल यूनिक चीज होती है और इसमें बहुत सारे कारण होते हैं। यह तो सच है। लेकिन कृषि मंत्री जी ने उनका कारण देते हुए शराब की बात कही है, घर की कलह की बात कही है। महाराष्ट्र में शासन ने जो रिपोर्ट दी थी, उसमें एक समय तो यह भी कहा था कि प्रेम-भंग होने के कारण भी कुछ किसानों ने खुदकशी की है। मुझे लग रहा है कि यह खुदकशी करने वाली हुतात्माओं का एक तरह से अनादर करना है। यह सच है। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि कोई भी खुदकशी करने वाला शायद शराब न पीता हो, उसके घर में झगड़े भी होंगे। लेकिन ये झगड़े होते क्यों हैं? जब घर में गरीबी आने लगती है, लोग कर्जे में डूबने लगते हैं, तो लोग शराब पीते भी होंगे, घर में कलह भी बढ़ती होगी, लेकिन सबसे प्राक्सीमेट कॉज कौन सा है, यह देखना है तो वह कर्जा है। जिन-जिन घरों में खुदकुशियां हुई हैं, वहां-वहां पर लोगों ने जाकर पता किया है तो वहां के लोग कहते हैं कि कर्जे के कारण, यह हुआ है। कर्जे वसूल करने का जो तरीका होता है, जिसमें किसानों की अप्रतिष्ठा होती है, वे समाज में मुंह दिखाने के लायक नहीं रहते, इस तरह के किसान खुदकुशियां कर रहे हैं। ये जो कर्जे होते हैं, अगर इनके कारण ढूढ़ने जायें, तो इनके कारण, मैं एक ही मिनट में बताऊंगा कि एक दाना बोने से सौ दाना पैदा करने वाला किसान, अगर कर्जे में डूबता है तो उसका कारण यह है कि सालों से शासन की नीति यह रही है कि उनकी फसलों का लागत-मूल्य भी नहीं मिल पाता है। जो नीतियां 1952 से चल रही हैं, इनका असर कब हुआ? इसका असर 1952 से 1986-89 में हुआ, जब प्रणब मुखर्जी कामर्स मिनिस्टर थे, तो उन्होंने यह लिखित रूप में दिया था कि हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों का जो नुकसान हुआ है वह इस साल में, एक साल में 24,600 करोड़ का था और 1996-97 में तो यह आंकड़ा 113 हजार करोड़ का हुआ है। मैंने जो रिपोर्ट शासन को दी थी, उसमें यह कहा था कि पिछले 20 सालों में किसानों का नुकसान मूल्य निर्धारण की गलत नीतियों के कारण तीन लाख करोड़ का हुआ है। इसलिए यह समझना चाहिए कि जो किसान कर्जा नहीं दे पाते, अगर शासन उन्हें कर्जा देता है तो वही कीमत डुबाने का भी काम करती है। उसका मतलब यह होता है कि कांट्रेक्ट एक्ट में, श्री राम जेठमलानी जी यहां पर नहीं हैं, कांट्रेक्ट एक्ट में इस तरह के करार में यदि होते, अगर किसानों ने जो शासन को देना है...।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आपका समय पांच मिनट से ऊपर हो गया है।

श्री शरद अनंत राव जोशी: महोदय, मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूं। उसमें नैतिकता का पुट नहीं होता है। अगर इस तरह से कर्जे की वसूली होती रहे तो मुझे लगता है कि कृषि मंत्री जी को मानना चाहिए कि सबसे पहला कारण आत्महत्याओं का यह है कि शासन ने कीमतों के बारे में जो नीतियां चलाई

हैं और खेती घाटे में रखी है, यह सबसे बड़ा आत्महत्याओं का कारण है। यह ठीक है कि कारण कर्जे होते हैं और सामाजिक अप्रतिष्ठा होने के डर से किसान खुदकुशियां करते हैं। मैं फिर से एक बार इन सारे किसानों को श्रद्धांजलि देता हूं, और एक बात कहना चाहता हूं कि 1980 में मैंने इंडिया और भारत शब्द का प्रयोग किया था। मुझे लगता है कि अब तक पांच हजार सुसाइड हो चुके हैं, ये सुसाइड नहीं रहे, यह एक तरह से 'इंडिया', ने भारत पर लदी हुई जिनोसाइड है और इसी रूप में उसे देखना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): डा॰ विजय मल्लया। आप तो बहुत ब्रीफ में बोल सकते हैं।

DR. VIJAY MALLYA (Karnataka): Sir, I will not exceed my time. Thank you. Sir, the problem of farmer suicides which I have been a painful witness to can be summarised as being a problem with middlemen. There are several agricultural credit institutions all over India. Whether the kind of finance is actually available to the poor farmers at rates of interest and on terms that are intended by the Government is something that needs serious examination. There is a breed called loan sharks or middlemen who conveniently ensure that the poor farmer cannot directly borrow from the credit institutions, that the middlemen, in fact, facilitate the loan and charge the poor farmer exorbitant rates of interest which he simply cannot afford. I have examined this. The middlemen also make the farmer who is most of the time illiterate, sign pieces of paper pledging their land holdings and when they are unable to pay, they come down on them and harass them to an extent which really drives them to suicide Something needs to be done urgently to eradicate these middlemen. The other point that I would like to make about middlemen is in the value chain. If one would care to examine the price that the farmer gets for his produce and the price at which the very same produce is sold to the end consumer, you will notice, Sir, that there are several middlemen along the way, which means that the poor farmer gets the least realisation for what he produces. This is another aspect that needs immediate Government attention. Finally, Sir, we announced many schemes for the benefit of the farmer but there is no accountability in ensuring that the farmers actually benefits from these schemes, in the way which are intended Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Dr. Vijay, can you please find out how many stages are there from the producer to the end in developed countries and in India? You can give us this information on some other day.

DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Yes, Sir.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, maximum number of suicides are taking place in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, I belong to Andhra Pradesh. Suicides by farmers in Andhra Pradesh are growing. Two months ago, Congress Government came to power. They are giving maximum facilities to the poor farmers. Farmers who are having one bulb and a small hut are given free electricity, some loans have been postponed and some loans have been written off. They have been given seeds at subsidised rates. Many facilities are being given. Still suicides are going on. Here, the issue is not the question of speech or any big debate or any controversial talk. The entire House should stand together and find out as to how we can help the poor farmers whose wives and children are crying because of their suicides. The most important thing is, if you have water, crops will come up, if there is no water, crops will not come. When there is water, crop grows. The next point is, the farmer borrows the money. When he produces the crop and when he is not able to sell it at a good price and when he is not able to get back the full money, he is not able to pay back his debts. When he takes a loan, as my friend Dr. Vijay Mallya said, the middlemen are taking away farmers produce and they are giving loans at 25-30 per cent interest rate which is very higher, and the then Government could not give loans to the poor farmer at lower rate of interest, they are also committing suicides. This is all a known fact. Now, what is the solution? I am extremely happy with the present Government, the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has said that the Government will give top priority to the farmers. They want to provide maximum loans at lower interest rates. This is the philosophy and commitment of our Government

They want to provide irrigation facilities and want to complete all irrigation projects as early as possible. They want to implement the Crop Insurance Scheme. Now, I call upon the Government to give top priority to this issue and extend assistance immediately to all the States, particularly Andhra Pradesh because the problem in A.P. is very severe. So, the Government of India must immediately implement Crop Insurance Scheme to all farmers in A.P. I am sure, if the Crop Insurance Scheme is in place, farmers will not commit suicide. Once his crop is insured, even if he doesn't get his crop due to the natural calamities, he is sure of getting compensation by way of insurance This is my first point.

The second point is this Now, the system is that even though the Government of India wanted to extend loan at a lower rate of interest to farmers, it is not able to give So, there is a need to streamline the system You must have new machinery and we should look at the things in a scientific way and help the farmers because the State Governments cannot do it due to resource crunch. So, we must sit together and find out a new system and also find out what is going wrong and how to rectify that mistake.

My next point is

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Mr. Reddy, you have already taken six minutes.

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY No problem Some Members spoke for twenty minutes My next point is

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): No, no What do you mean by 'no problem'?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY Sir, I will take only two minutes

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) You wanted three or four minutes, but you are given six minutes . *(Interruptions)* The problem is mine, not yours

DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY I will take only two minutes Now, the most important thing is this

SHRI BALBIR K PUNJ (Uttar Pradesh) Sir, we want to hear him

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) Okay. I will send him out You also go out and hear him outside, not here. Here, the time belongs to the House

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, in the morning Mr. Jaitley spoke for twenty minutes and stalled the proceedings of the House He did not allow the Question Hour to run Today I lost two questions and yesterday I lost three questions They are stalling the proceedings of the House everyday And, when I speak for three minutes, you are becoming impatient

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): No, no Please do not waste your time

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY I am very happy to inform the House that the Members of Parliament from A P , irrespective of political affiliation, requested the Government of Karnataka to release water for Andhra Pradesh.

Yesterday, Members belonging to the Congress Party met them and requested to release water Of course, all hon. Members want that water be released to A P The Government of Karnataka said that it would consider the release of water to A P Sir, people of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are *bhai-bhai.* Both are very close If we are in distress, they have to help us If they are in trouble, we must help them. Therefore, through this august House, I call upon the people of Karnataka to stand by A P. and see that water is released immediately and help the farmers to put up their crops and see that, at least, poor farmers do not commit suicide Thank you.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have heard with rapt attention the contribution made by respected and distinguished Members of this House, to begin with, the former Minister of Agriculture and Chief Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh and, at the end, Dr Reddyji. I would like to make it first clear that the objective policy of the UPA Government is to lay the greatest emphasis on the rural poor in general and the farming community in particular. For that matter, whatever is possible at our command, within the available resources and planned task, we shall leave no stone unturned to reach the root of the cause and address the issue not merely on the political and social philosophy but as the cause of humanity. It is a shame for us that we are discussing—we had been discussing it in the past—cutting across party lines, in the House, the most pathetic issue called suicides by farmers which causes a trauma in the Parliamentary democracy Therefore, my first appeal would be, let us not address the issue on a partisan manner and a manner in which it hurts the respect and dignity of the respective Chief Ministers of various States who really try to transform the society On many other occasions, we can try to enter into a political debate. But, this is an area where, I think, we should address the issue afresh and with objective assessment of this Government

Our hon. Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, before taking up any meeting with any other agency of the country, first, for two-and-a-half hours, shared a meeting with the leaders of the Kisan Movement and the farming community at his residence, involving other Ministers, and tried to pose questions himself to them and tried to understand the reality I am absolutely clear that this message of the hon Prime Minister, addressing the meeting with the leaders of the farming community and visiting Andhra Pradesh, gives a positive ray of confidence and hope about what is the intention of this Government.

Sir, I began with a few important aspects of this debate, confining with 'suicide' I represent an area, in Parliament, which comes in the border

area of Naxalism I had personally seen, during my student days, the root cause of the Naxalite movement, which defined the term 'peasant' in a manner by which people, many brilliant scholars lost their lives. and, I share their wisdom. Till today, the peasants' struggle in this country, has not found a realistic answer (a) in terms of the land reforms in various parts of the country; and (b) in terms of the actual and appropriate definition of reforms.

Sir, when I was a student, I used to feel that a man who ploughs the land, who returns home, at the end of the day, after a hard toiling, is a farmer. I do not like to accuse any individuals, a farmer is not just 'he' or 'she', who is in the fields, one who controls the land, 'he' or 'she', is also a farmer, Therefore, the social philosophy, in dealing with the farmers' real problem, have not been addressed in a manner, in which it should have been. I, therefore, feel and express the concern of our Government that the land reforms, which are pending, must take a very fast-track programme throughout the nation. At the instance of the respected States, we shall also find a mechanism whereby such litigations could be ended which deprive the real farmers of their right to plough their land. Therefore, I feel that the approach of the UPA Government is absolutely clear on this count. Any farmer who tills the land and returns home at the end of the day-fed or half-fed-faces a family, a mute family; a daughter is waiting for clothing; the old parents are waiting for medicines, he cries. The accumulated cries and tears of such farmers give a place for a social situation where actually, in the words of my dear colleague, Mr. Mallya, the middleman operates, sometimes as a private lender And, I am sorry to say—I represent the Government, and I am replying to the question responsibly—that it is true in our banking system itself, be it in the cooperative sector or the public sector, the harassment corridor is enough to confuse them and not to educate them. Therefore, Sir, our Government took a policy, a very conscious awareness programme, to ensure that the farmers understand what exactly are their right, how much they will get If anything is brought to our notice that any farmer has been harassed, the policy line has not been conveyed to him and the policy matters did not give him benefit, we will take the persons, who are responsible for it, to task. That is one of our policy approaches in the whole spectrum.

Shri Raj Nath Singhji is not here I think, the area that he touched will soon be replied by our Finance Minister during his reply to the Budget discussions However, I would like to remind him about the total GDP percentage investment in the agricultural sector It is true that if you selectively

choose agricultural sector, as such, the *per se* GDP investment was 1.3 per cent. I would like to remind Raj Nath Singhji that he had been a distinguished Chief Minister of a very important State of the country. He is a very important public figure, who has been in the agriculture sector. He had enough occasions to interact with the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister of his own Government. In 1991, the ratio, in terms of GDP, was 1.9. And it was brought down, when Mr. Raj Nath Singhji demitted office, to 1.3 per cent. I am not saying this for any political criticism. I am saying because, may be, there were other compulsions due to which you could not find room to invest more in terms of the GDP ratio. Sir, I want to say this with responsibility that you wait for seven months. This Government is going to present the full budget then and you will find that our agricultural investment in proportion to the GDP will be more than what it was during the last six years. And, Sir, we are working in cohesion with the Rural Development Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Water Resources as a close jacket to address the collective issues of the farmers, be it linked with credit, be it linked with irrigation, be it linked with the distressed farmers' package. Sir, the State Governments also have to work under a different compulsion. The States Finances, *per se,* in the respective States, are really at a dismal stage now, and to deal with this situation, the Fiscal Responsibility and Management Bill had been passed. Our Government is addressing the issue in such a manner that the hon. Finance Minister have had to say that State deficit burden on interest has been further condoned by this Government in order to streamline the situation, so that they can respond to the issue with their meagre resources or the resources available at their command, matched with the Central Grant in an objective manner, and selectively identifying the areas, the vulnerable pockets, where the drought-prone affected families are suffering

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in regard to the Maharashtra situation, my very dear friend, Shri Sanjay Nirupamji, has highlighted many issues. I appreciate his way of putting up the points, keeping the September elections in view, warming up stakes. But I can assure him that our hon. Prime Minister made a declaration yesterday, in the other House, that he himself will be coming to make a statement in that House pertaining to Maharashtra alone; regarding the drought-affected problem of Maharashtra and other related issues. ...*(Interruptions)*... I think, Mr. Sanjay Nirupamji is a good speaker. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, he is a good fighter But what he lacked was his fighting quality to get the package cleared from the previous Government. But on this matter you should not fight at all. We are quite responsible and we will .. *(Interruptions)*. .

श्री संजय निरुपम: इसलिए वह सरकार चली गई और आपकी सरकार आ गई, अब मैं आपकी सरकार से मांग कर रहा हूं...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI Thank you very much. Sir, these points will be addressed very shortly by the hon. Finance Minister, and the hon. Prime Minister himself assumed the responsibility to make a statement very shortly, maybe, in this week, in the other house.

Sir, regarding selective social problems, many figures have been quoted; 3000, 5000 approximately. Sir, I am not disputing, nor confirming the figures commented upon by various NGO's and the distinguished Members I have to rely only on the reports received from the State Governments The State Goverments while preparing a report depend on the local Police Station's Investigation Report. Socially and politically it may not be fully correct, but a responsible Government has to depend on the reports received from the State Governments. I share the concern, but, maybe, the magnitude is much higher

Sir, our hon. Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawarji, is himself, I should say, much more concerned about the agriculture sector. He had his innovative ideas for Maharashtra's agriculture sector, where he ruled not as a Chief Minister, but even in his various capacities as a Cabinet Minister I myself have found, as one of his political colleagues in those days, that he had a brilliant concept of developing the cooperative movement in the agriculture sector I have no doubt whatsoever that under the able leadership of Mr. Sharad Pawar, the agricultural sector will get its due justice, and it will get much more than what has been contributed in the past Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, he himself conveyed to me this morning that he had intimate interaction with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Miss Uma Bhartiji, on this matter He had interaction with the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka also on this matter. He has to interact with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh only. Sir, I have great pleasure in informing the House that our Government, through the Agriculture Ministry, is addressing two issues. We have to collectively address the overall agricultural problems, and, particularly, the problems of the distress farmers and agricultural workers so far as suicides and such tragic incidents are concerned And, Sir, very soon, we shall provide you a mechanism involving the State Governments. With their cooperation, for each drought-prone area or district or vulnerable blocks, a definitive mechanism would be built to get the pre-crop season-wise information of the farmers and agricultural

workers, their liabilities and their sufferings and accordingly, we shall address this issue so that we can reduce these desperate attempts of suicides by great, great supporters of our nation, who contribute immensely for our stomach, for the economic growth of the nation. Therefore, Sir, it will be one of our priority works. Our Prime Minister gave us a clear direction. He said, "don't look at the political party which is heading a Government. Look at the human problem and irrespective of the colour of the Chief Minister, the problem linked with the rural poor, the peasants, farmers, especially, in such tragic manners, should be addressed immediately. We shall address the issue, above political line and shall address the issue and continue to address the issue." It began with the Prime Minister's visit to Andhra Pradesh. Sir, so far as Rajnath Singh's point pertaining to accelerated irrigation benefit programme is concerned, I would like to inform him that he is little ill-informed about his own statistics. The Tenth Plan target for providing Rs. 2800 crores support programme to each state has been set by their Government. I would only like to inform him that we are not changing it. Possibly, we are trying to increase it from the next year's Budget to address it more aggressively.

Sir, many other points have been made about the rural credit. I do share the concern expressed by Shri Sharad Joshi. I sincerely admire the contribution made by several hon. Members. How can an empty stomach poor farmer, who has nothing to dispose of except his life, think of sitting idle when he has to settle his earlier dues with banks either in terms of restructuring or rescheduling? I do feel, Sir, it is a serious issue. Our Government primarily addressed this issue in the Budget, and on 18th June, 2004 we announced a policy in this regard. If you look at the 18th February policy, which was announced after the dissolution of Lok Sabha, you will find that it was announced in a hurry. Obviously, my friends in the Opposition will agree that the moment you announce the policy on 18th February, it cannot peculate down immediately. It takes time for the State Governments to understand its support and contribution. Therefore, Sir, after careful study, the policy that we announced on 18th June, not only accommodated a few points of the 18th February policy, but also enlarged the scope of the rescheduling of the loan and one-time settlement programme, and even writing off loans in a few cases. However, I can convey to the House with all authority at my command that such distressed families who cannot dispose anything except their life—I use that technical word for it—will be given another special attention by this Government to see that they get enough confidence and commitment to contribute further in the agricultural sector Sir, different NGOs, social activists are working

3.00 P.M.

on this front. I would like to say that immediately after this Session, our Ministry and our Government would consider sharing with them the field experience, before finally readdressing the issue and responding to their crisis in a practical manner.

Sir, once again, on my behalf and also on behalf of the Government, I pay my homage to those families who lost their kith and kin in these tragic sequence of suicides. I do hope that under the leadership of our Government, we shall try to wipe out the tears from their eyes as much as we can and to ensure them, "yes; here is a Government and here is a nation. Don't die. Try and struggle. We are behind you." Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) . The discussion on this Calling Attention Motion is over...*(Interruptions)*...Now, we shall take up the Special Mentions; Shri Sanjay Nirupam. His Special Mention is on "Concern over the attacks by Leopards in Mumbai."

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, Sir, .. *(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : No; sorry; no more discussions. This is all over...*(Interruptions)* ..

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I had put specific questions to the hon. Minister about Andhra Pradesh ..*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : No; no more questions. You cannot start question-answer session now...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, this is a very serious issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) . I know, every issue is a big issue. Please, sit down.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : No, you will not get any reply. He has replied very well. Everybody has spoken. We have taken three hours instead of one hour.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, it is not helping the peasants in Andhra Pradesh in any way.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : That is all right. But we cannot do anything about it right now.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, it is not helpful to the people of Andhra Pradesh. I had raised a specific question about the credit plan. Also, I wanted some assurance from the hon. Minister regarding crop insurance. The third issue was about release of water from Karnataka. Nothing is said about the release of water. The fourth point is about the Action Plan of the Government of India regarding preventing the people of Andhra Pradesh from committing suicide. Nothing has been said in the hon. Minister's reply about these issues.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : All right, please, sit down.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I am expressing my serious displeasure.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Concern over the Attacks by Leopards in Mumbai

श्री संजय निरुपम (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपने विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से मुम्बई के नेशनल पार्क में तेंदुओं के बढ़ते आतंक की ओर सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। मुम्बई के नेशनल पार्क में आदमखोर तेंदुओं का आतंक बेतहाशा बढ़ गया है। सिर्फ जून महीने में ही कुल 13 लोगों को तेंदुओं ने दबोच डाला। लगभग 62,000 लोग नेशनल पार्क के क्षेत्र में या उसके आसपास रहते हैं और हजारों की संख्या में आदिवासी समाज के लोग यहां रहते हैं। इनमें तेंदुओं का भयंकर आतंक फैला हुआ है। गोरेगांव, कांदिवली, बोरीवली, भुलुंड, पवई इत्यादि के रिहायशी इलाकों में रहने वाले लोग भी तेंदुओं से आतंकित हैं क्योंकि इन इलाकों में भी तेंदुए न सिर्फ दिख रहे हैं बल्कि आम आदमी पर हमले भी कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, पिछले एक वर्ष में यह संकट ज्यादा बढ़ा है, मगर वन विभाग के कर्मचारी व राज्य सरकार इस समस्या को उतनी गंभीरता से नहीं ले रही हैं, जितनी वांछित है। तेंदुओं की धर-पकड़ भी बहुत धीमी चल रही है। ऐसा अनुमान है कि पार्क में लगभग 35 तेंदुए हैं, जबकि अब तक सिर्फ 6 तेंदुए पकड़े गए हैं। इनके अलावा अभी कितने आदमखोर तेंदुए जंगल में हैं, इसकी जानकारी नहीं मिल पा रही है। सरकार से हमारी मांग है कि तत्काल वह राज्य सरकार को मुस्तैद होने का निर्देश जारी करे, रिहायशी इलाकों को जंगल से अलग करने के लिए जो 98 किलोमीटर लंबी दीवार बनाने का कार्यक्रम है उसे पूरा करे, दीवार बनाने के लिए आवंटित लगभग साढ़े सात करोड़ रुपए की रकम तत्काल रिलीज करें, तेंदुओं के रिहायशी इलाके में प्रवेश को रोकने के लिए कटीली या करंट लगने वाले तार बिछाने का कार्यक्रम शुरू करना चाहिए, पार्क परिसर में जो अतिक्रमण हुए हैं उसे भी दूर करने का इंतजाम करना चाहिए, जो आदिवासी 50-50 वर्षों से जंगल के क्षेत्र में